




LEGION OF
SUPER-HEROES
20
JUL 91

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES®

VENADO
BAY

KEITH GIFFEN

TOM & MARY
BIERBAUM

AL GORDON

82

COMMUNIQUE: STRICTEST SECURITY
FROM: SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE RULING CASTE
TO: PINNACLE COMMAND AND POLITICAL MINISTRY
EYES ONLY

THE THIRD AND FOURTH FLEETS OF THE DOMINION, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE FLAGSHIP PINNACLE, ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE ENGAGEMENTS IN THE AETIAN SECTOR AND PROCEED AT MAXIMUM SPEED TO SOL III, EARTH, FOR PURPOSES OF QUASHING THE REBELLION THERE.

PINNACLE COMMAND IS GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY AND FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO EXTINGUISH THE UPRISING BY ANY MEANS DEEMED NECESSARY. THE REBELLIOUS NATIVES MUST BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY TO IMPRESS UPON THEM OUR RESOLVE TO HOLD AND CONTROL THIS MOST DANGEROUS OF WORLDS.

NONETHELESS, IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE APPEARANCE OF EARTHGOV'S UNCOMPROMISED SOVEREIGNTY BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES AND AT ANY COST. THERE CAN BE NO TANGIBLE EVIDENCE TO THE INTERSTELLAR COMMUNITY THAT WE DO NOT ACT AS THE WELCOME ALLIES OF THE DULY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF THAT WORLD.

THEREFORE IT IS THE MOST CRUCIAL DUTY OF PINNACLE'S POLITICAL MINISTRY TO MAINTAIN ALL LEVERAGE ON KEY EARTHGOV PERSONNEL, WHOSE ABSOLUTE AND UTTER SUBMISSION IS VITAL. LIKewise, IT IS THE MOST CRUCIAL DUTY OF THE PINNACLE COMMAND TO MAINTAIN AND ENFORCE TOTAL OBEDIENCE AMONG THE HUMAN ENFORCEMENT TROOPS.

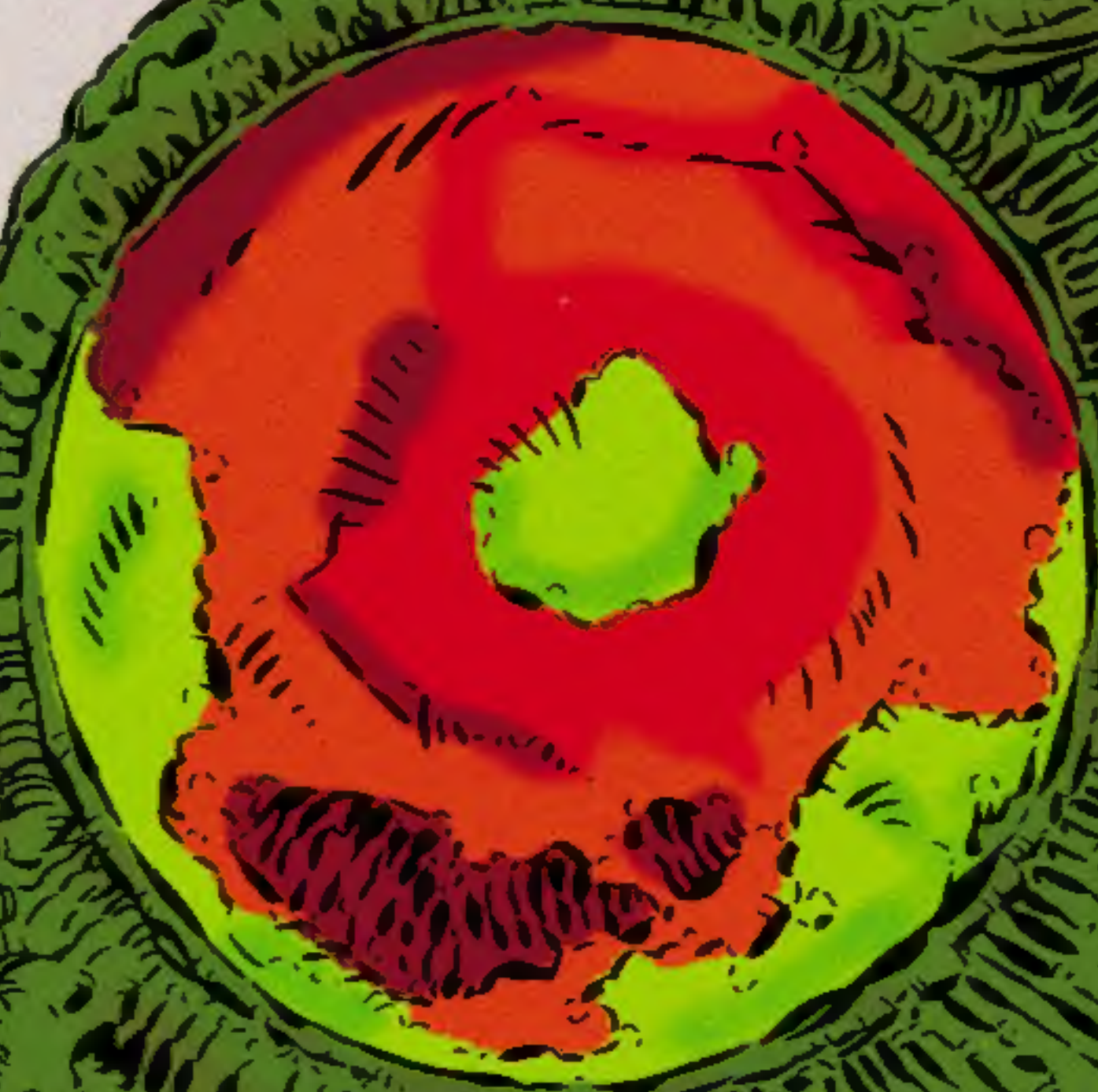
PINNACLE COMMAND WILL FIND SOL III CURRENTLY UNDER MARTIAL LAW, BEING ENFORCED BY SCIENCE POLICE EARTH, THE EARTHGOV MILITARY AND BY THE TWO FULLY ARMED, FULLY STAFFED DOMINION BATTLE WAGONS THAT SURVIVED THE DETONATION OF TRIPLE STRIKE.

THE BATTLE WAGONS WERE REQUESTED BY THE POLITICAL DIVISION AND DISPATCHED TO SOL III AFTER NATIVE UNREST REACHED CRITICAL PROPORTIONS WITH REVELATIONS BY THE LOCAL PRESS OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE GOVERNING OF THE PLANET. THE RECENT UNAUTHORIZED DETONATION OF TRIPLE STRIKE HAS BROUGHT MASSIVE DESOLATION TO THE PLANET, DISRUPTING ORGANIZED REBELLION AGAINST EARTHGOV BUT ALLOWING FOR WIDESPREAD LAWLESSNESS.

DESPITE ITS ADMIRABLY CONCEIVED DECEPTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, OUR EARTHGOV EMBASSY MUST CLEARLY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MEDIA EMBARRASSMENTS AND THE DETONATION OF TRIPLE STRIKE, AND CAN CLEARLY NO LONGER BE ENTRUSTED WITH THESE VITAL OPERATIONS.

IN STRICTEST SECURITY WE INFORM PINNACLE COMMAND THAT IT IS TO LEAVE THE EARTHGOV EMBASSY IN APPARENT CONTROL OF SOL III OPERATIONS FOR AS LONG AS IT DEEMS FIT FOR PURPOSES OF GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR GROSS MISMANAGEMENT. AT A TIME OF PINNACLE COMMAND'S CHOOSING, EARTHGOV EMBASSY IS TO BE ARRESTED AND RETURNED TO THE SEEDWORLD TO FACE THE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES.

YOU ARE SO ORDERED, IN THE SERVICE OF THE HIGHEST CASTE.





FLAGSHIP PINNACLE.
WHAT IS YOUR POSITION?

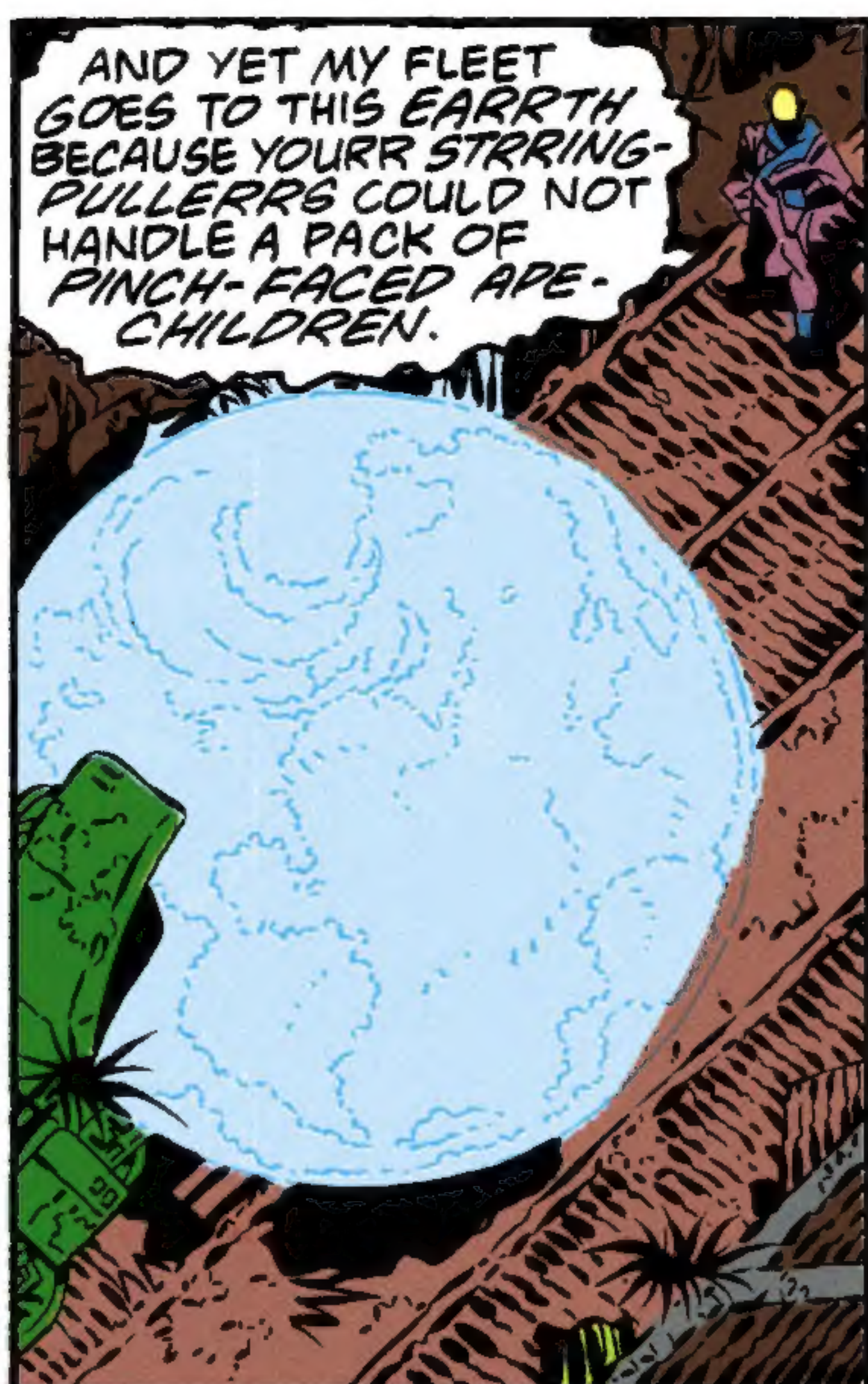


THE FLEET IS CURRENTLY
SLINGSHOTTING AROUND
NEPTUNE.

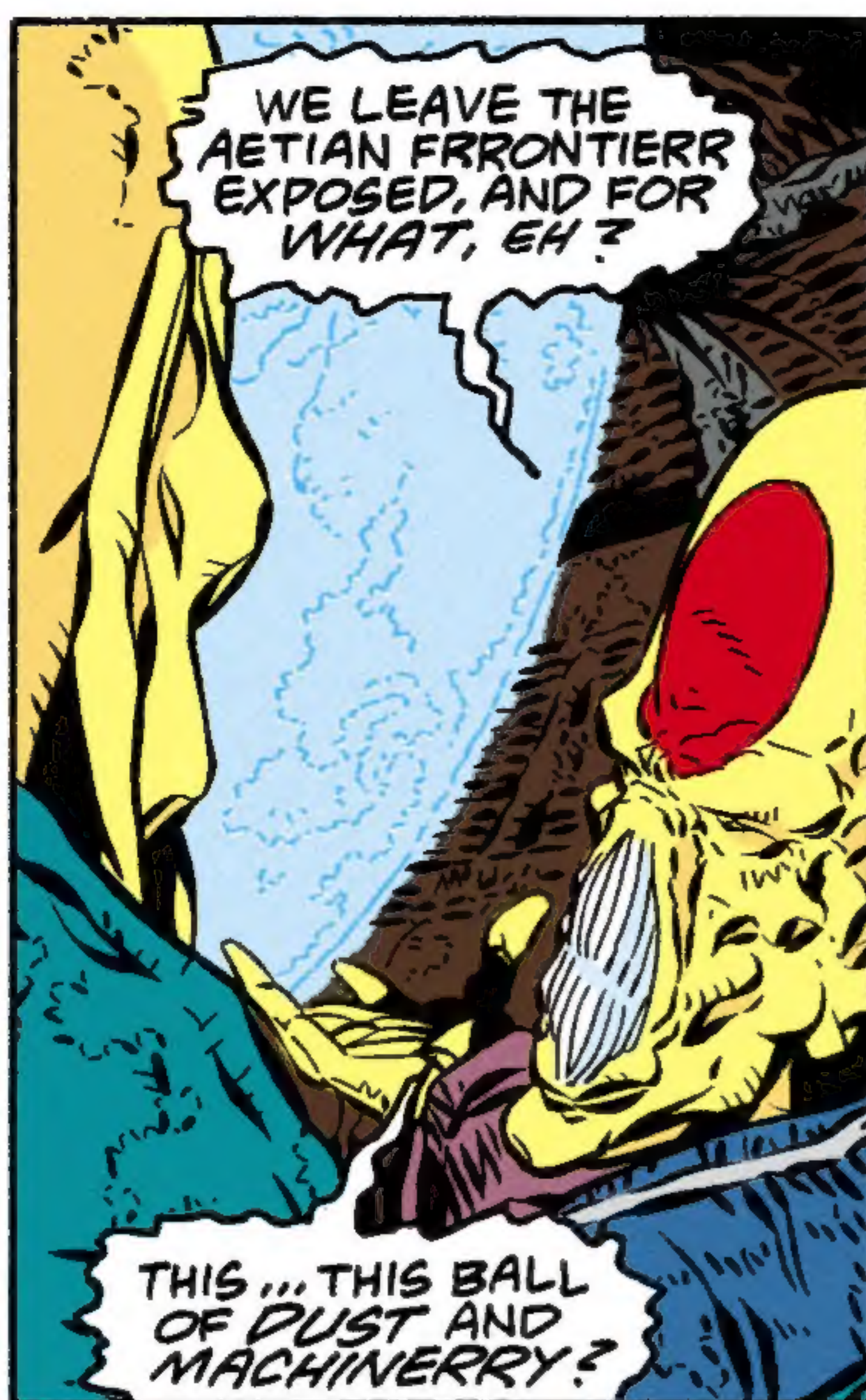


WE EXPECT TO ARRIVE
AT EARTH WITHIN TWO
HOURS.

I CANNOT COMPREHEND
IT... DOES ONE UNSHEATH
A SABRE TO DISCIPLINE
AN UNRULY CHILD, EH?



AND YET MY FLEET
GOES TO THIS EARTH
BECAUSE YOUR STRING-
PULLERS COULD NOT
HANDLE A PACK OF
PINCH-FACED APE-
CHILDREN.



WE LEAVE THE
AETIAN FRONTIER
EXPOSED, AND FOR
WHAT, EH?

THIS... THIS BALL
OF DUST AND
MACHINERY?



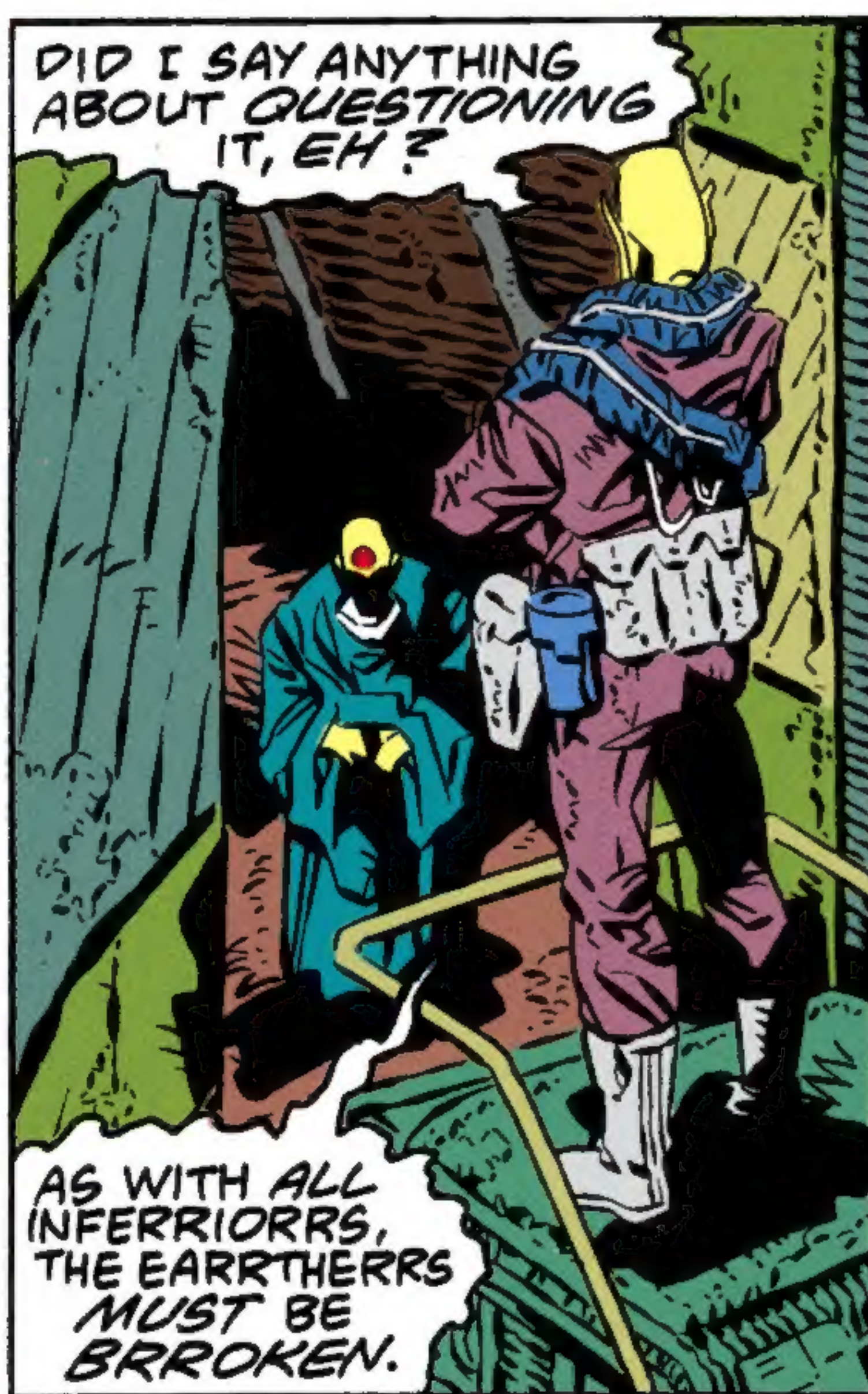
GENERAL, YOU
KNOW THE
IMPORTANCE
OF EARTH...

YOU MEAN THE THOUSAND-
YEARS' FOLLY, EH? I
KNOW OF IT...



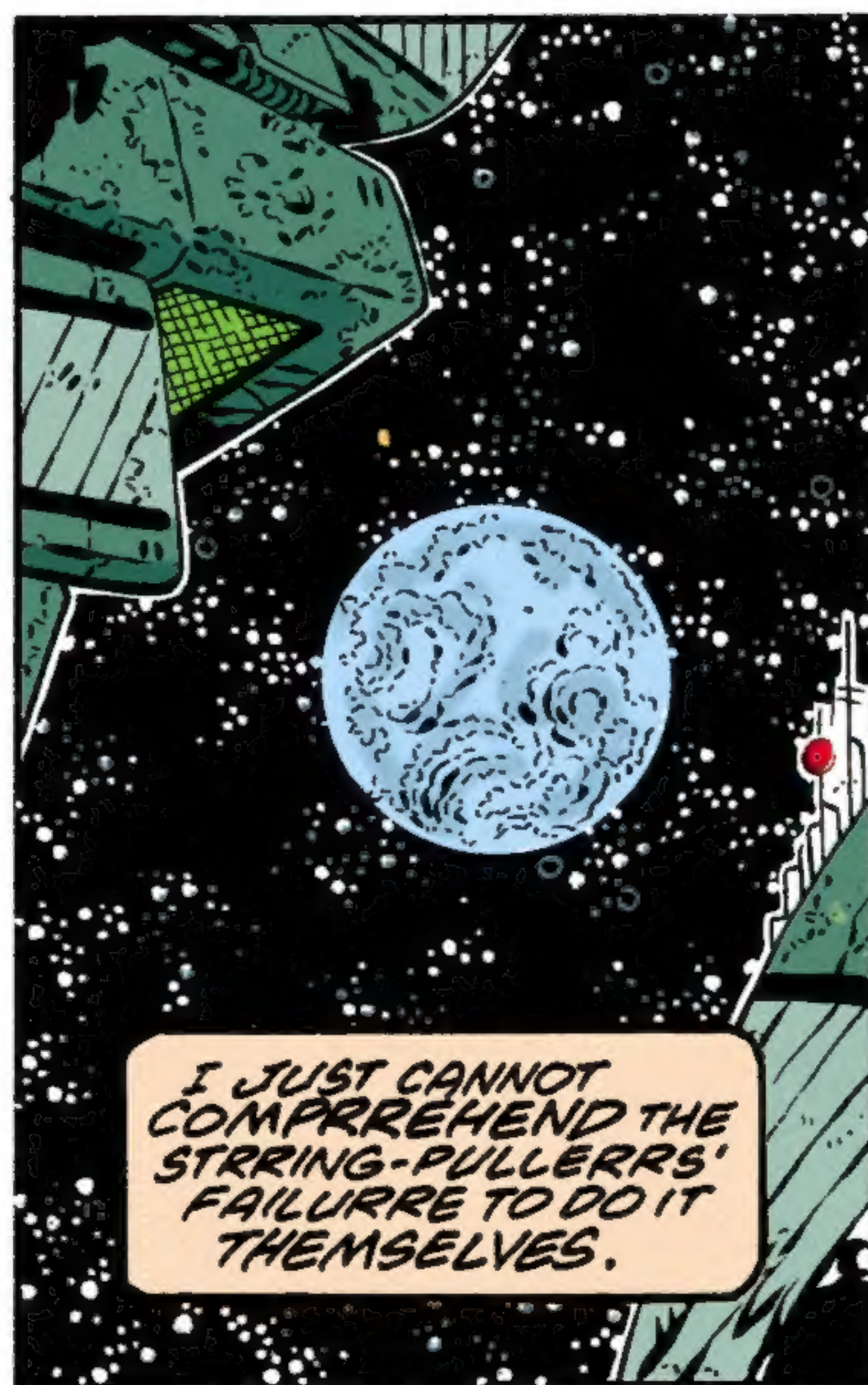
FOLLY? PERHAPS
IT IS.

BUT IT IS THE FOLLY OF
THE ONE. AND IT WOULD
BEHOVE US NOT TO
QUESTION IT.



DID I SAY ANYTHING
ABOUT QUESTIONING
IT, EH?

AS WITH ALL
INFERIORS,
THE EARTHERS
MUST BE
BROKEN.

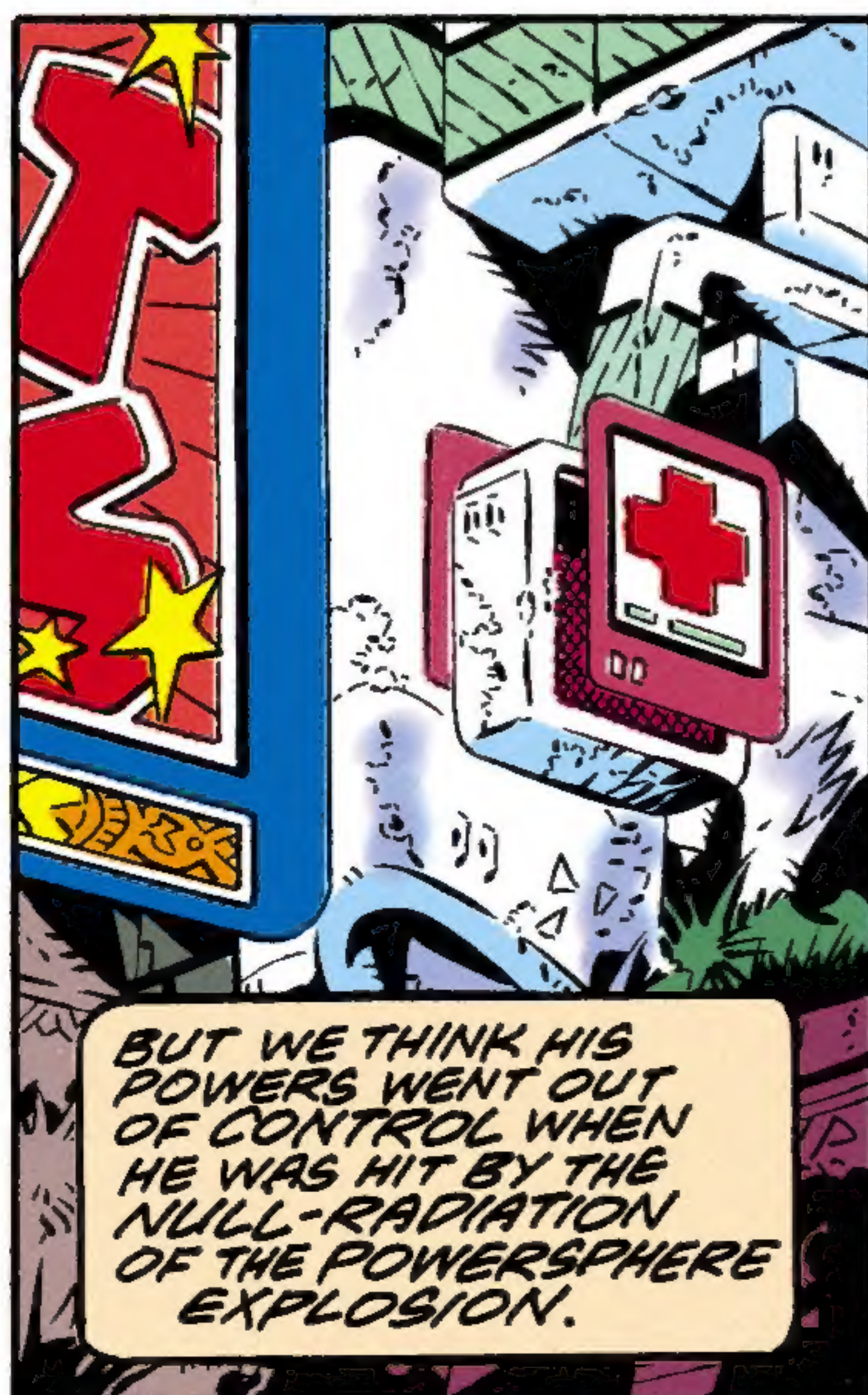


I JUST CANNOT
COMPREHEND THE
STRING-PULLERS'
FAILURE TO DO IT
THEMSELVES.

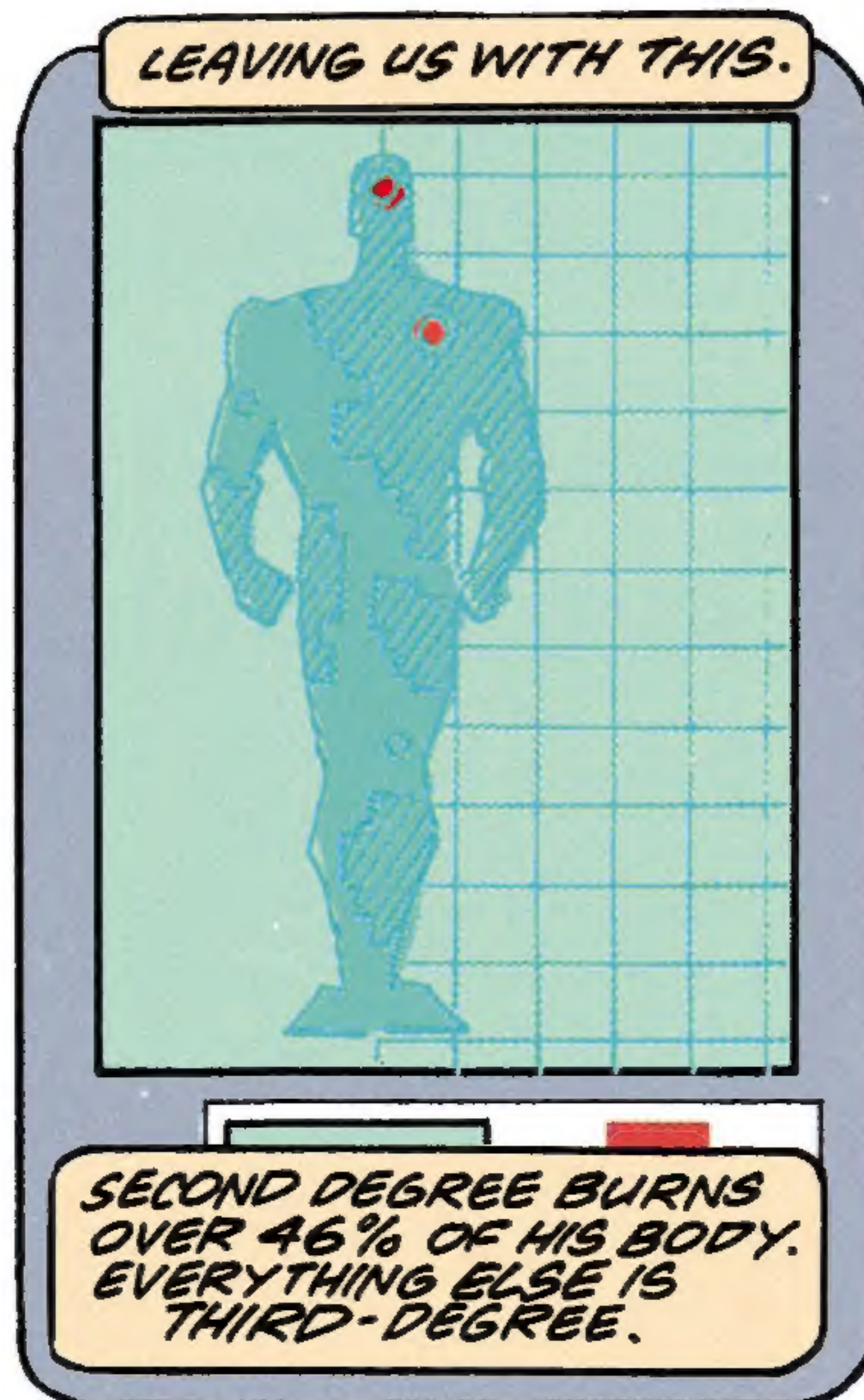


EARTH...

WELL, ALL WE CAN DO IS GUESS...



BUT WE THINK HIS POWERS WENT OUT OF CONTROL WHEN HE WAS HIT BY THE NULL-RADIATION OF THE POWERSPHERE EXPLOSION.



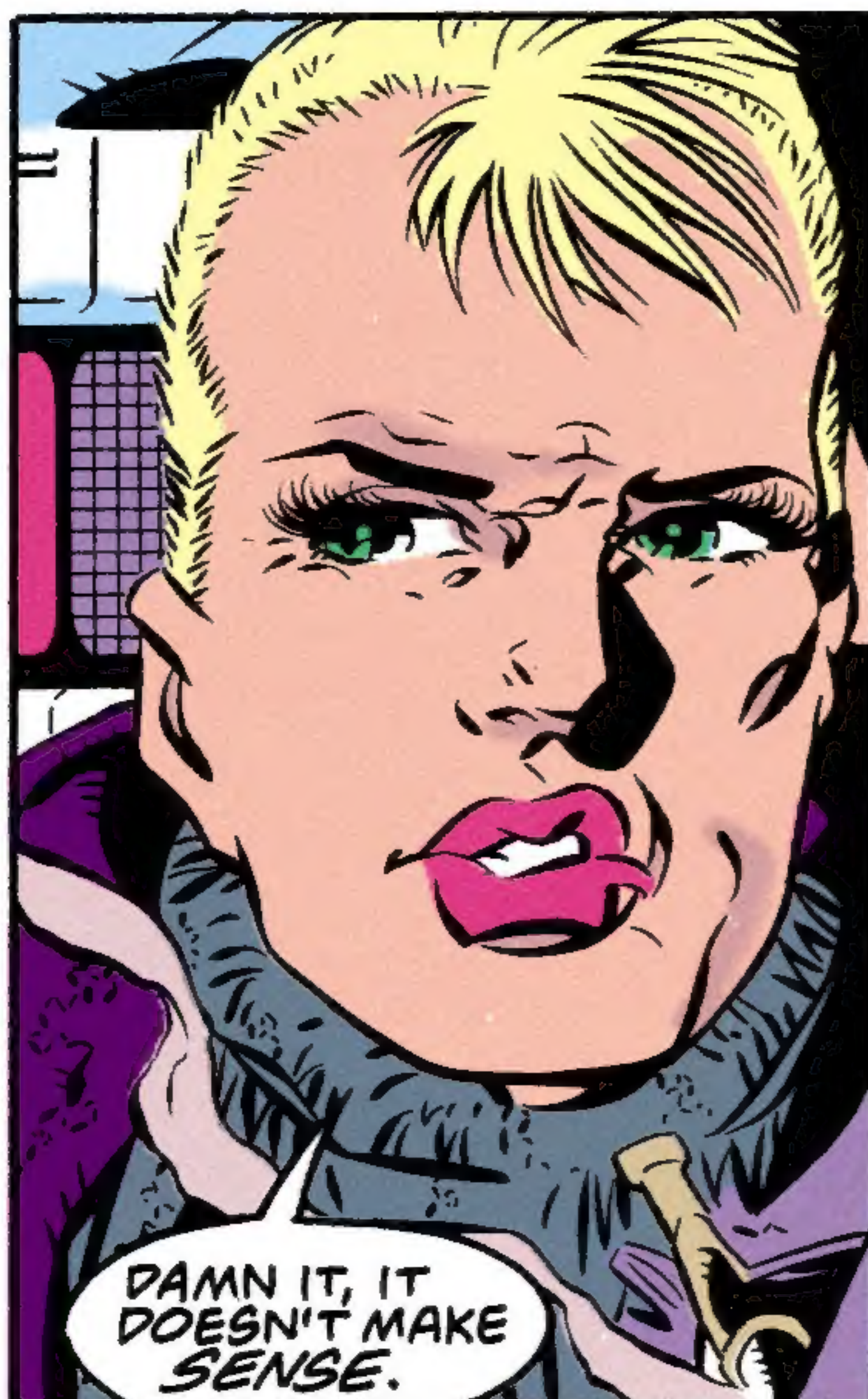
LEAVING US WITH THIS.

SECOND DEGREE BURNS OVER 46% OF HIS BODY. EVERYTHING ELSE IS THIRD-DEGREE.

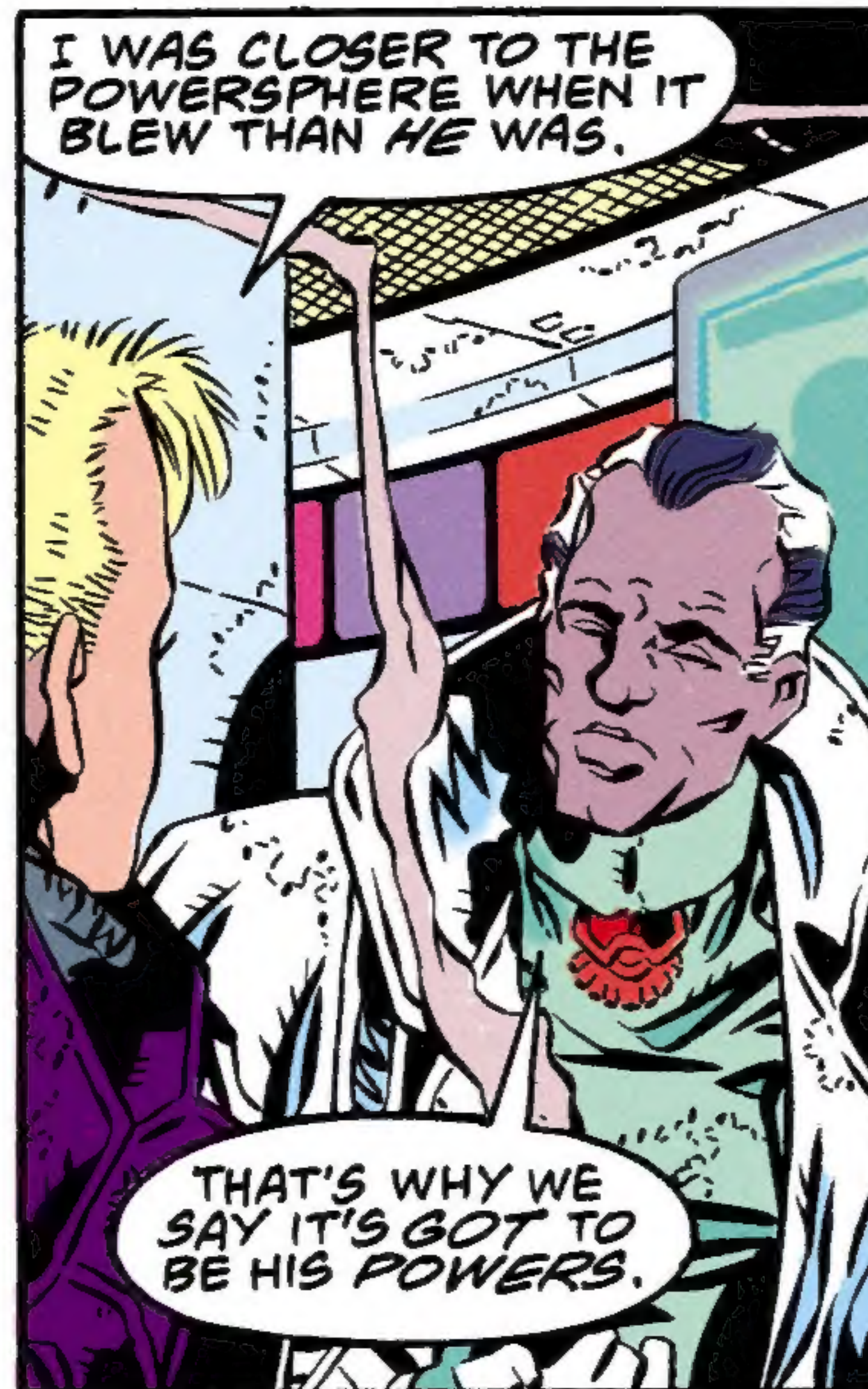


AND IT GETS WORSE BY THE HOUR.

HE'S LIKE A LIVING FURNACE, FEEDING ON HIMSELF--LITERALLY BURNING HIMSELF ALIVE.



DAMN IT, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.



I WAS CLOSER TO THE POWERSPHERE WHEN IT BLEW THAN HE WAS.

THAT'S WHY WE SAY IT'S GOT TO BE HIS POWERS.



THE ACCIDENT THAT GAVE DIRK MORGNA HIS "SUN BOY" POWERS APPARENTLY TURNED HIM INTO A WALKING TIMEBOMB.



IT JUST TOOK THE NULL RADIATION TO FINALLY SET IT OFF.

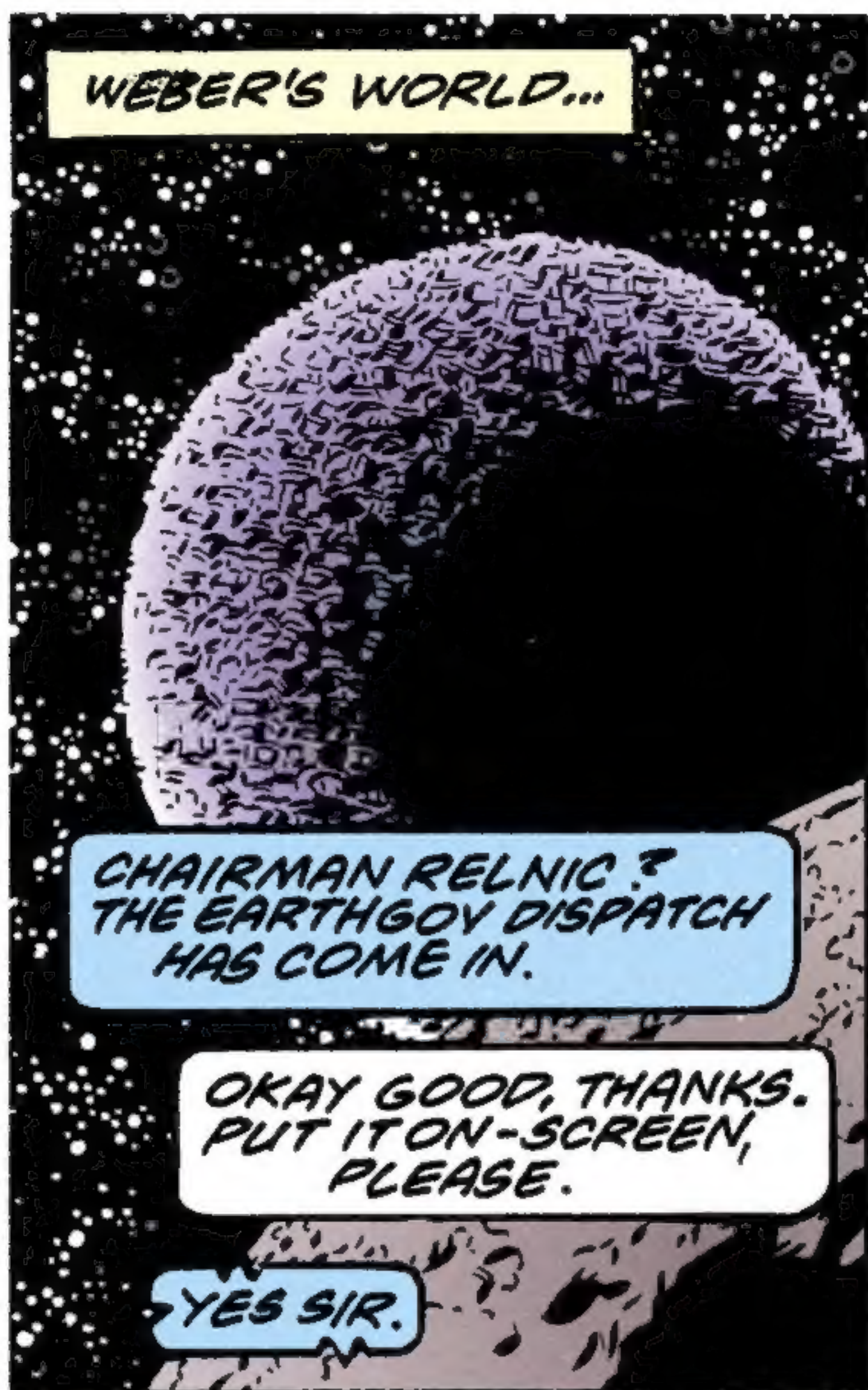
SO WHAT'S HE FEELING? IS HE IN PAIN?

PAIN?



MADAME CIRCE, HE'S LITERALLY BEING BURNED ALIVE.

LET'S JUST HOPE TO GOD HE'S LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

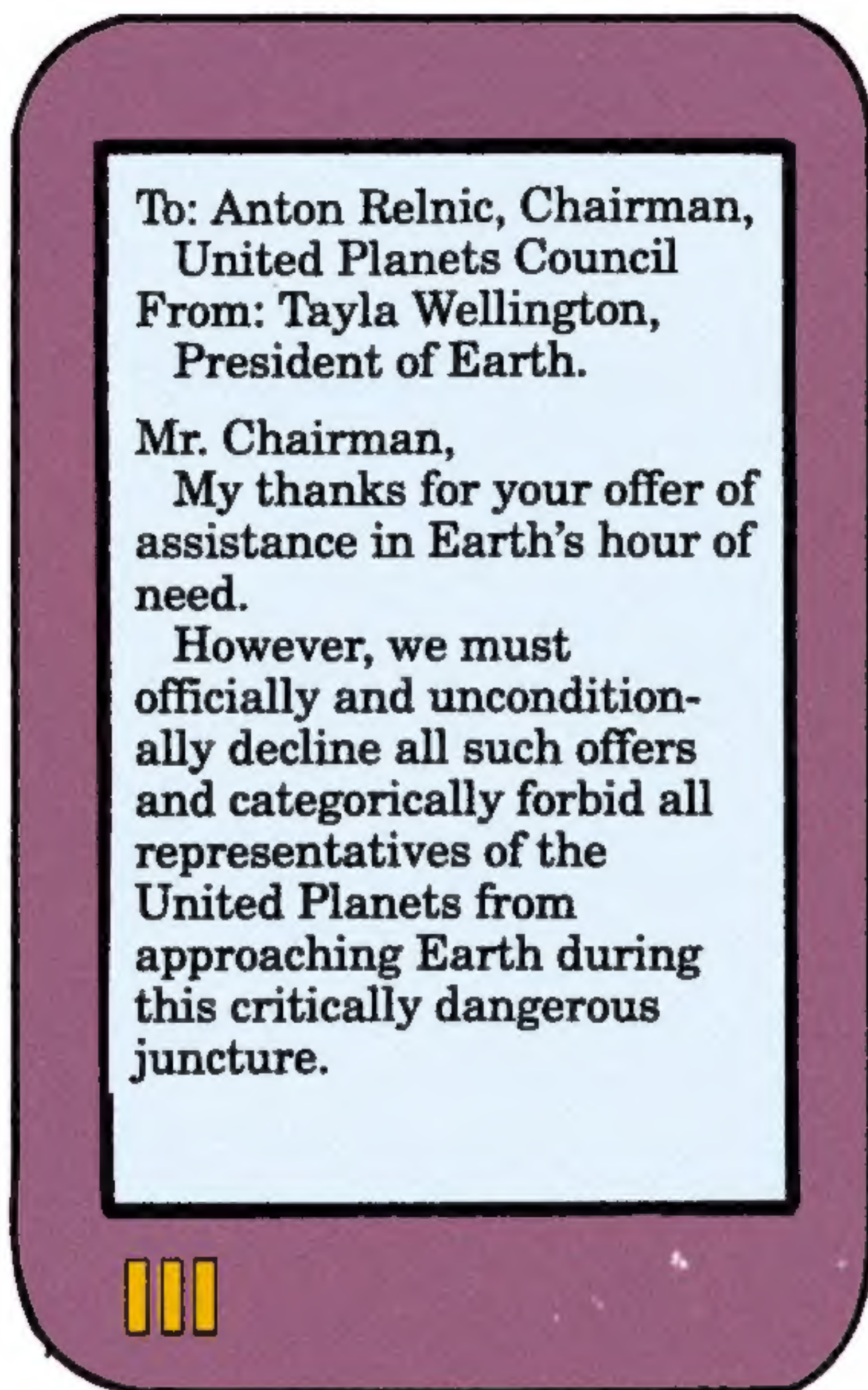


WEBER'S WORLD...

CHAIRMAN RELNIC?
THE EARTHGOV DISPATCH
HAS COME IN.

OKAY GOOD, THANKS.
PUT IT ON-SCREEN,
PLEASE.

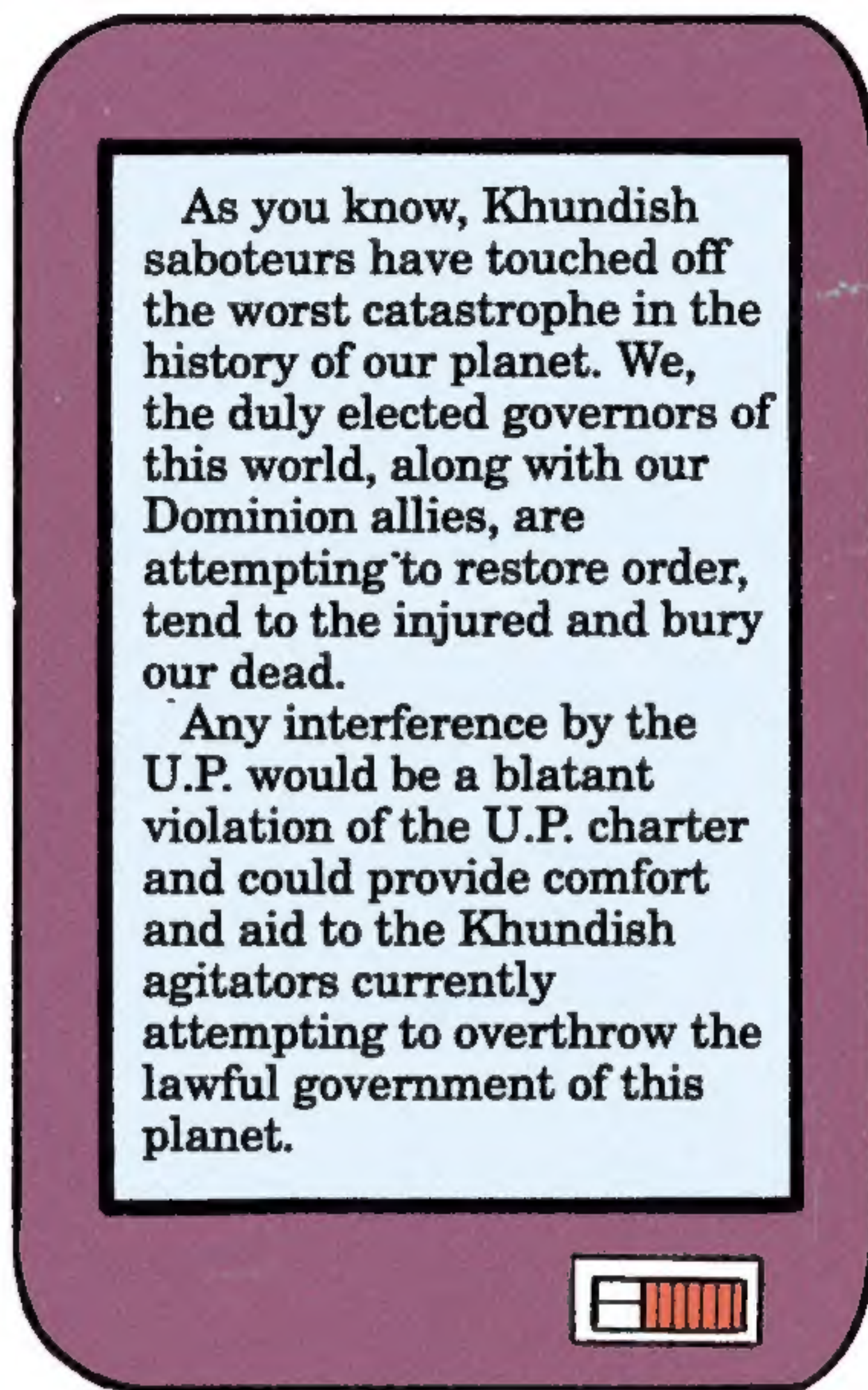
YES SIR.



To: Anton Relnic, Chairman,
United Planets Council
From: Tayla Wellington,
President of Earth.

Mr. Chairman,
My thanks for your offer of
assistance in Earth's hour of
need.

However, we must
officially and uncondition-
ally decline all such offers
and categorically forbid all
representatives of the
United Planets from
approaching Earth during
this critically dangerous
juncture.



As you know, Khundish
saboteurs have touched off
the worst catastrophe in the
history of our planet. We,
the duly elected governors of
this world, along with our
Dominion allies, are
attempting to restore order,
tend to the injured and bury
our dead.

Any interference by the
U.P. would be a blatant
violation of the U.P. charter
and could provide comfort
and aid to the Khundish
agitators currently
attempting to overthrow the
lawful government of this
planet.



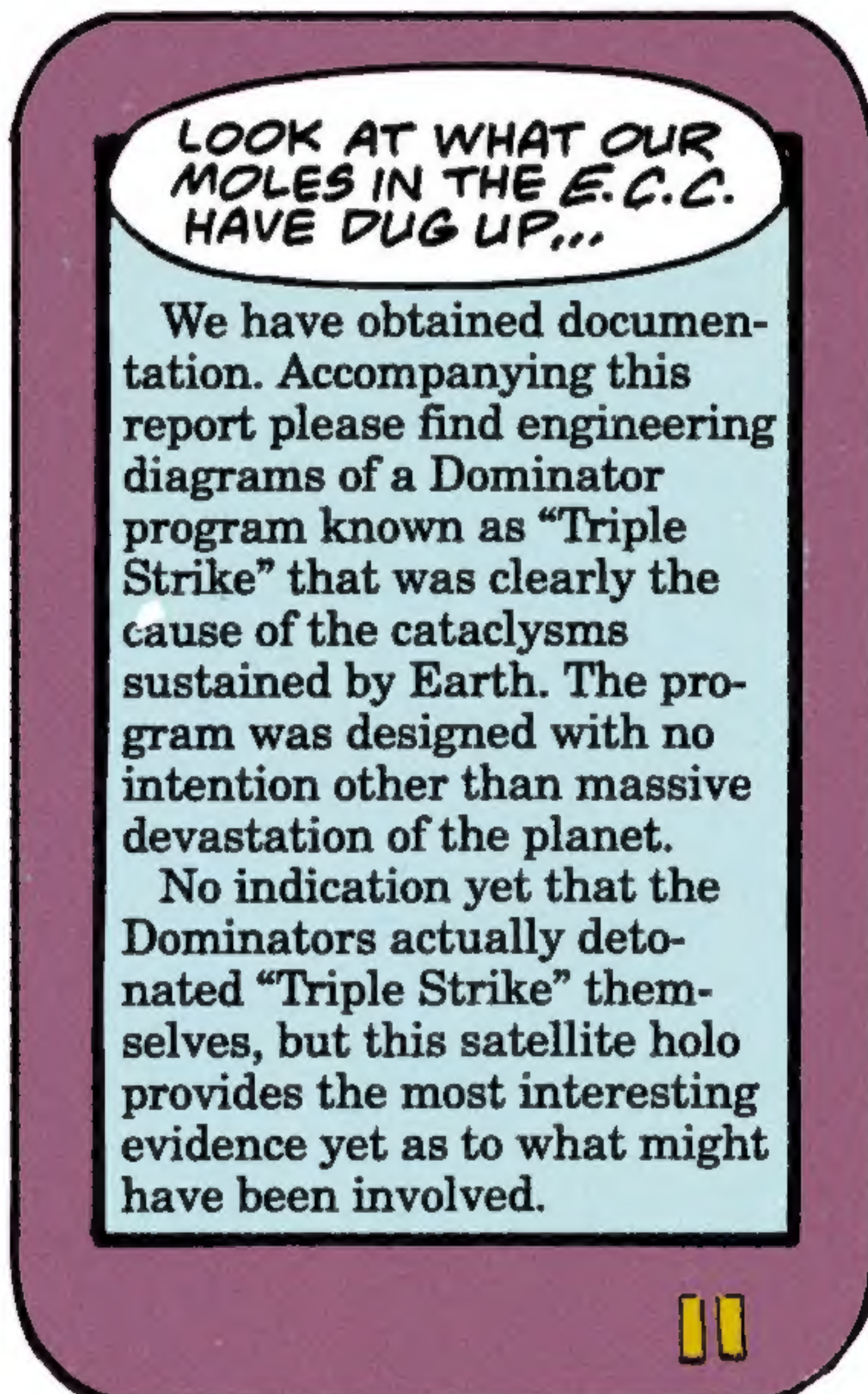
HOGWASH!
THEIR "DOMINION
ALLIES" ARE SURROUNDING
THE PLANET WITH A FLEET
OF BATTLE-WAGONS
EVEN AS WE SPEAK!



I TELL YOU, ANTON, IT'S
AN ACT OF WAR!

UNOFFICIALLY,
JONN, I AGREE
WITH YOU.

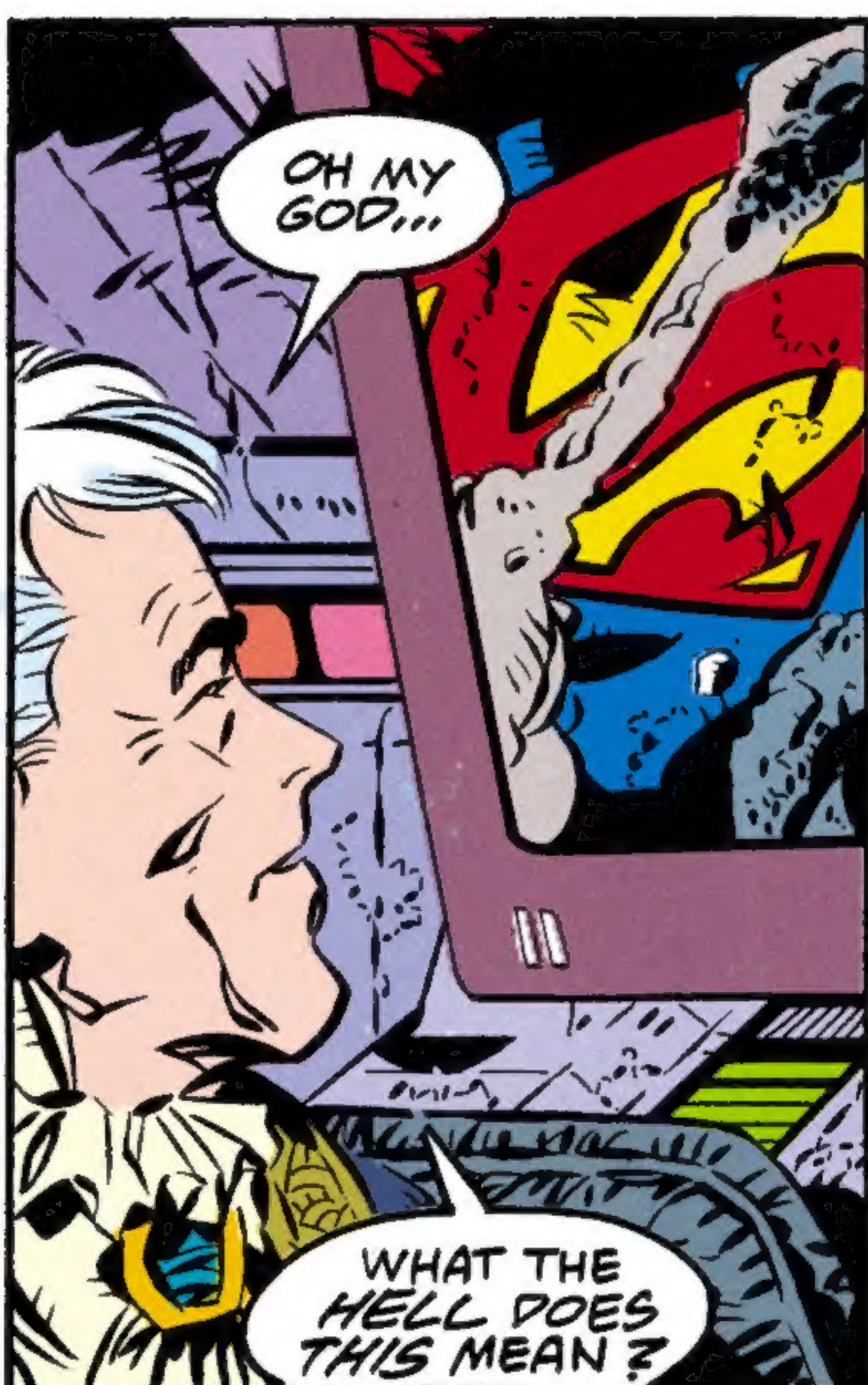
AND LOOK
AT THIS.



LOOK AT WHAT OUR
MOLES IN THE E.C.C.
HAVE DUG UP...

We have obtained documen-
tation. Accompanying this
report please find engineering
diagrams of a Dominator
program known as "Triple
Strike" that was clearly the
cause of the cataclysms
sustained by Earth. The pro-
gram was designed with no
intention other than massive
devastation of the planet.

No indication yet that the
Dominator actually deto-
nated "Triple Strike" them-
selves, but this satellite holo
provides the most interesting
evidence yet as to what might
have been involved.



OH MY
GOD...

WHAT THE
HELL DOES
THIS MEAN?



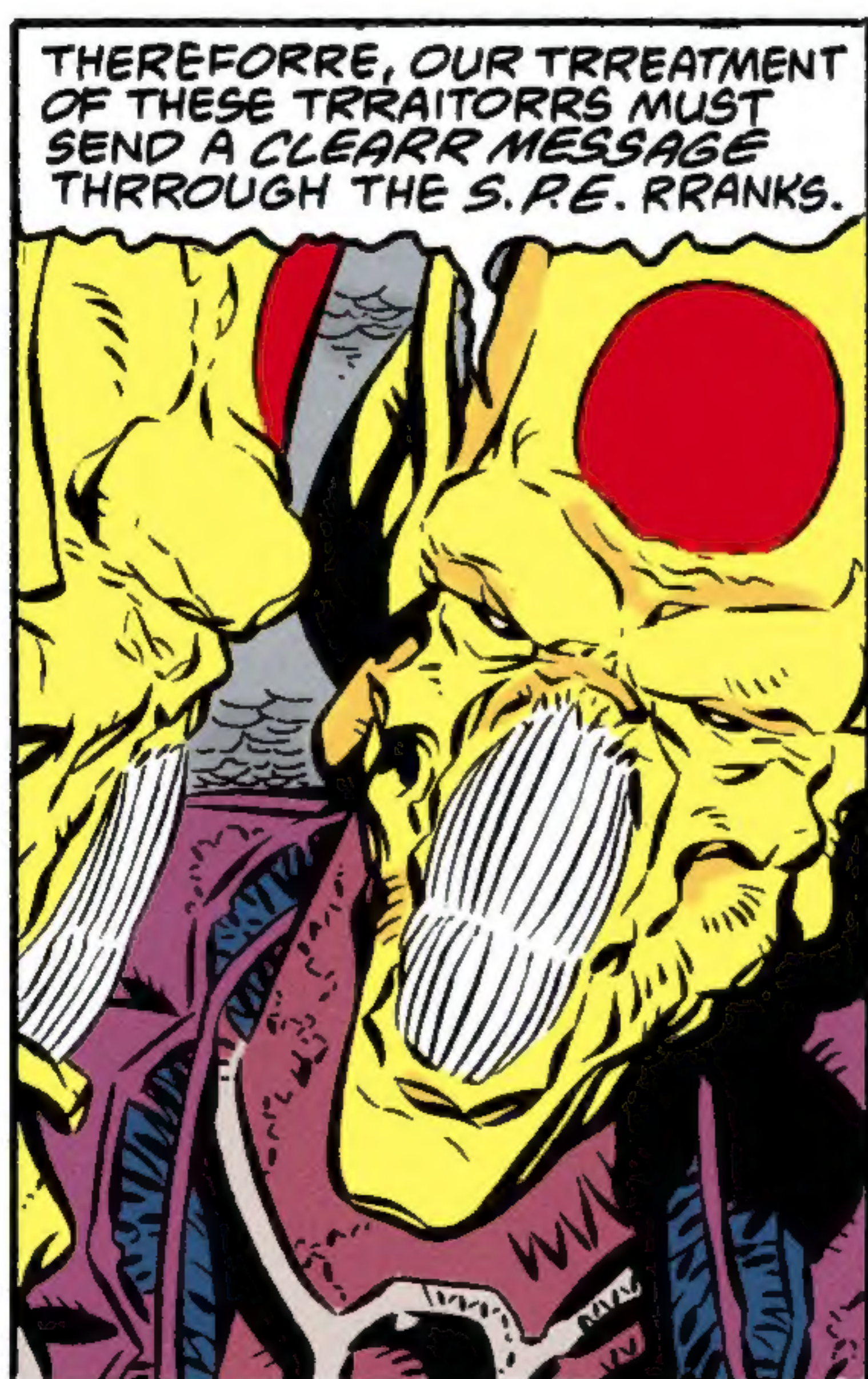
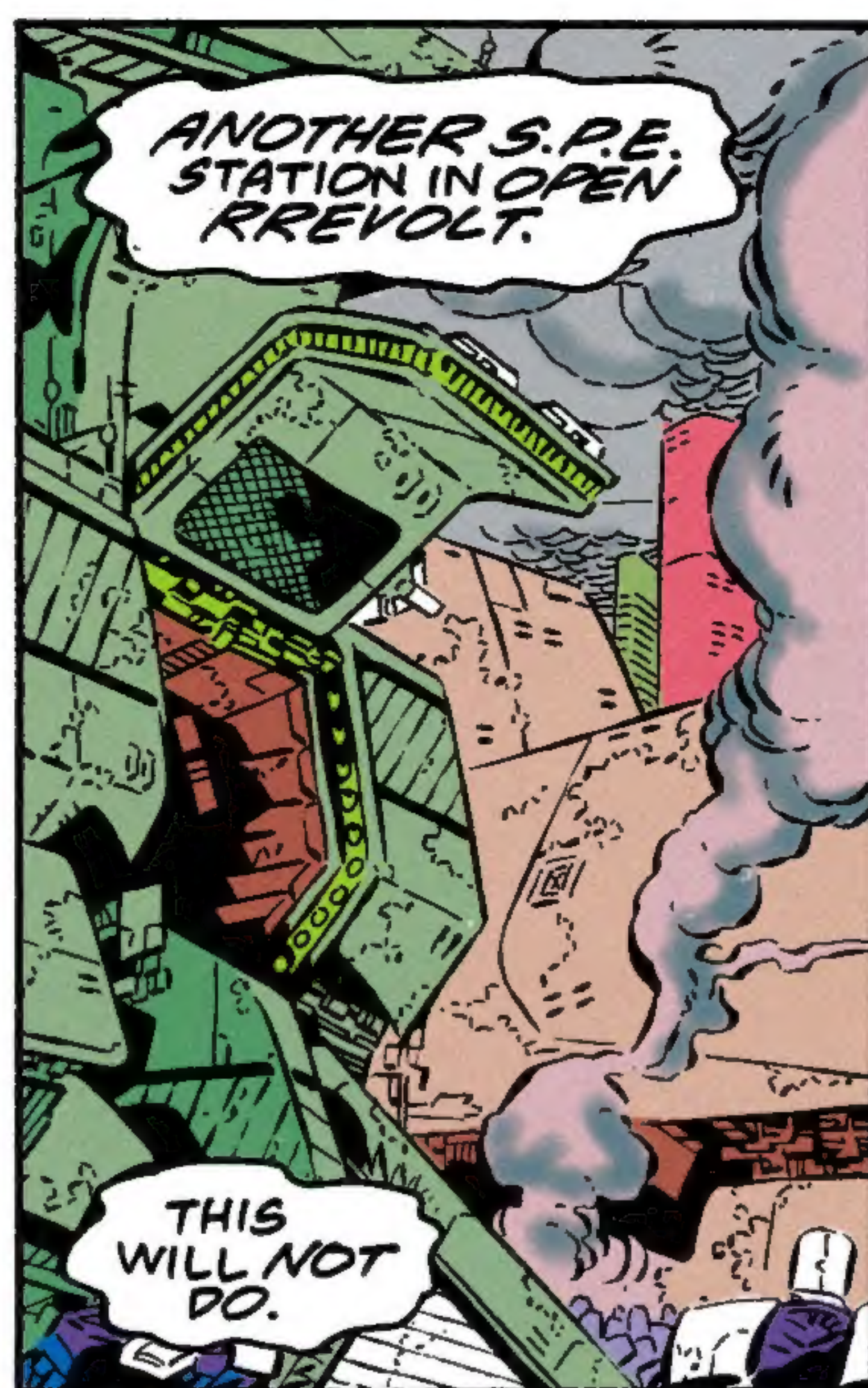
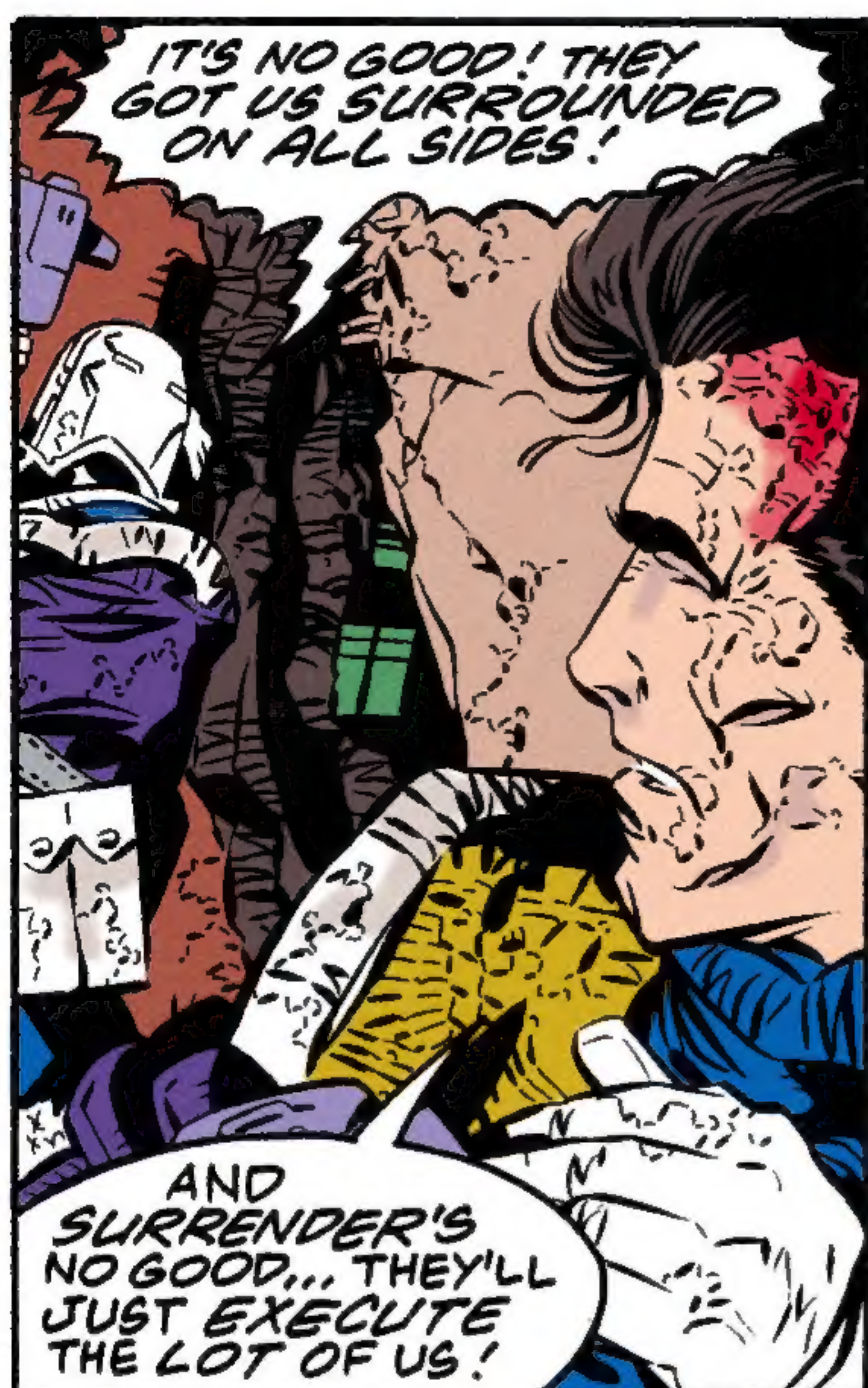
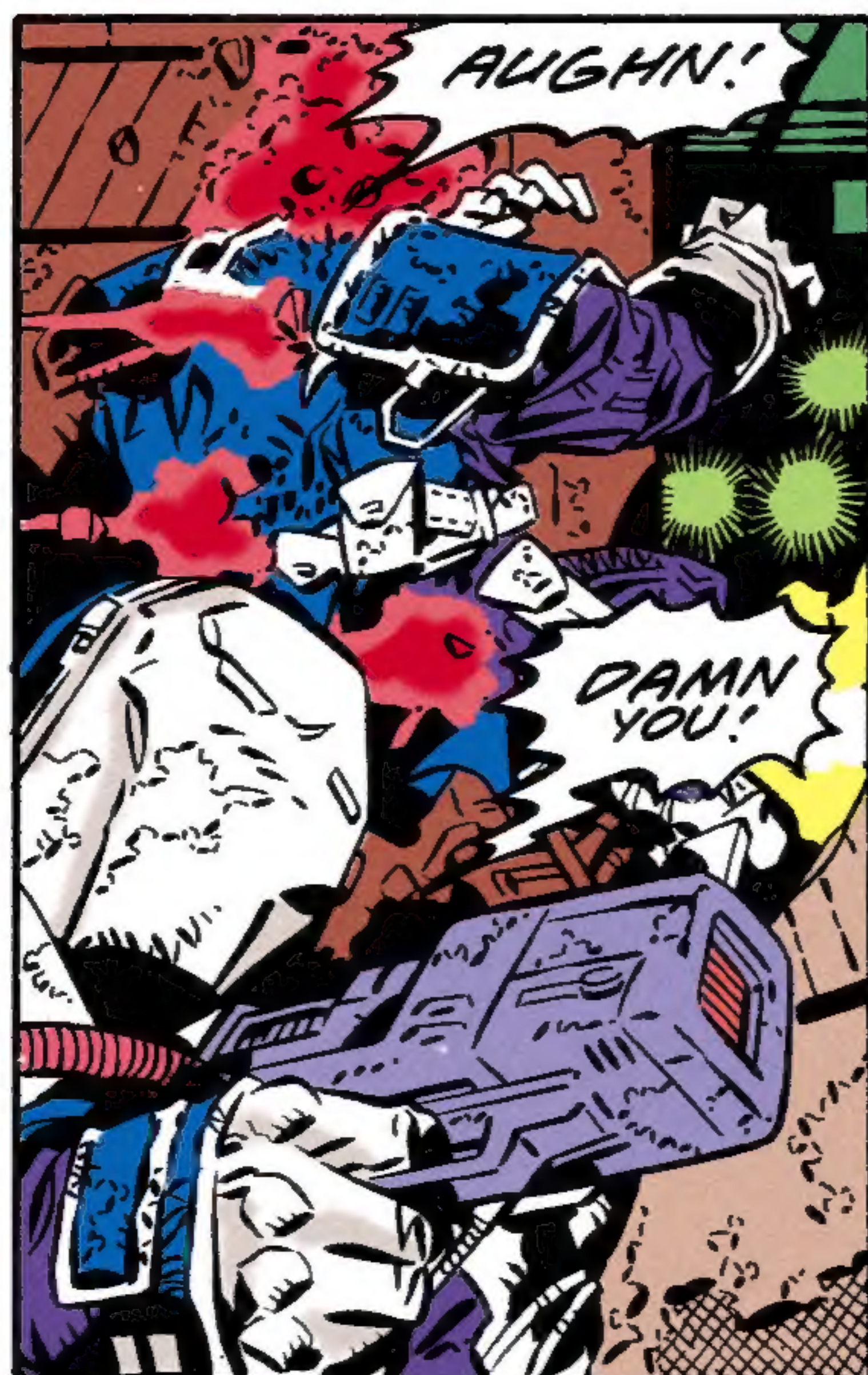
ANTON, CONSIDER WHAT
THE DOMINATORS' GENETIC
TECHNIQUES ARE
CAPABLE OF.

CAN WE REALLY
AFFORD TO JUST
SIT BACK AND
WATCH WHAT
DEVELOPS?



JONN, I KNOW. BUT
UNTIL THE SOVEREIGN
GOVERNMENT OF EARTH
REQUESTS OUR
HELP...

WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO
DO ANYTHING
BUT SIT BACK
AND WAIT.





METROPOLIS...

OH MAN, I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT...

I'M GONNA BLOOMIN' BLEED TO DEATH! RIGHT HERE!



LORD ALMIGHTY...

LORD ALMIGHTY...

IF I HADN'TA SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES I WOULDN'TA BELIEVED IT!



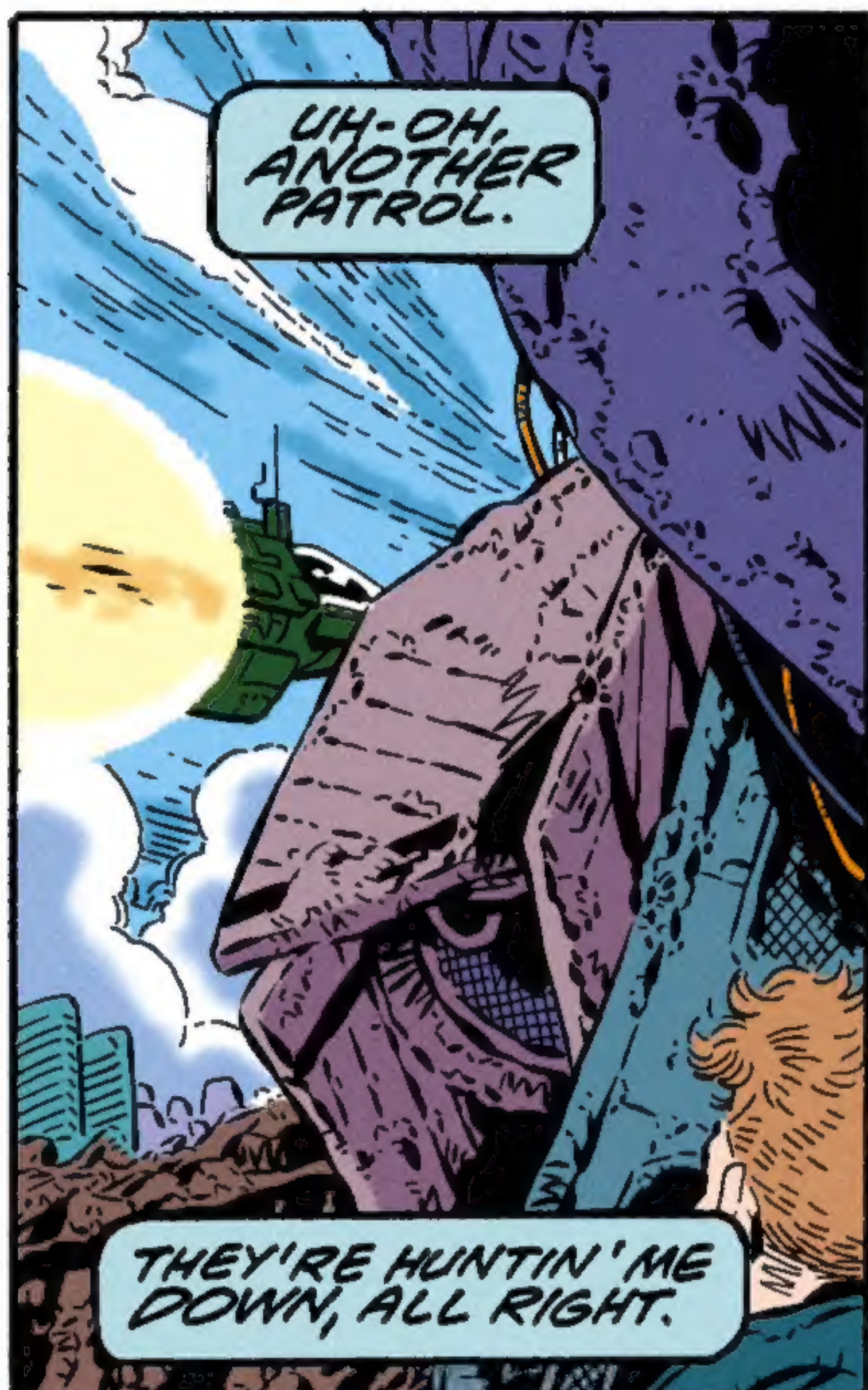
THOSE BLOODY FLIPPIN' DISKHEADS, JUST GUNNIN' DOWN PEOPLE IN THE STREETS!

NO PRETENSE A DUE PROCESS! NO--



AHNN!

LORD ALMIGHTY, THEY REALLY GOT ME!



UH-OH, ANOTHER PATROL.

THEY'RE HUNTIN' ME DOWN, ALL RIGHT.



LOOKS LIKE... LIKE THEY COULD JUST SAVE THEMSELVES THE TROUBLE.



HEY, LOOK OUT!

THERE'S SOMEBODY UP AHEAD!

NOW WHAT?



KRO-KRAK!



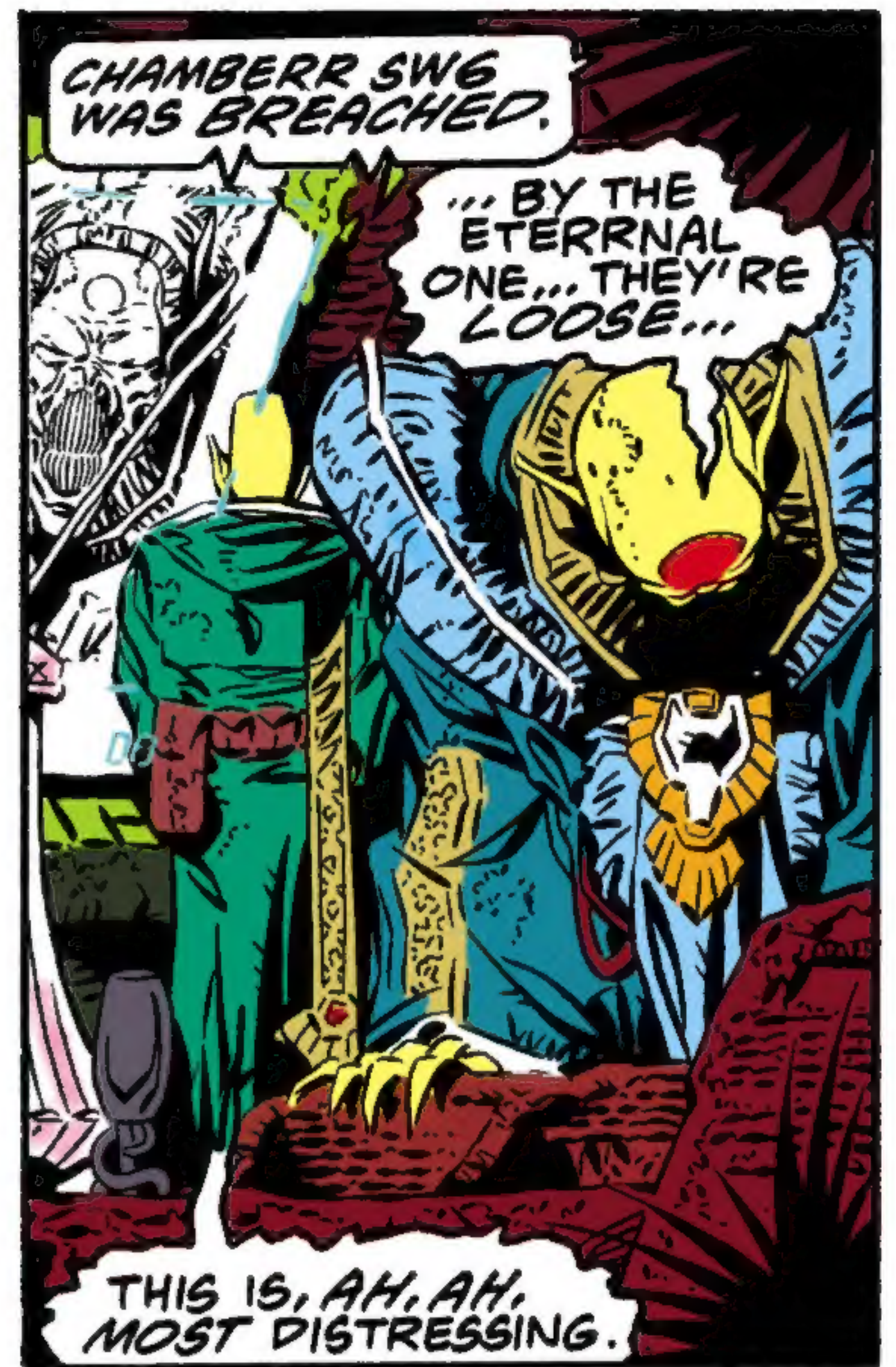
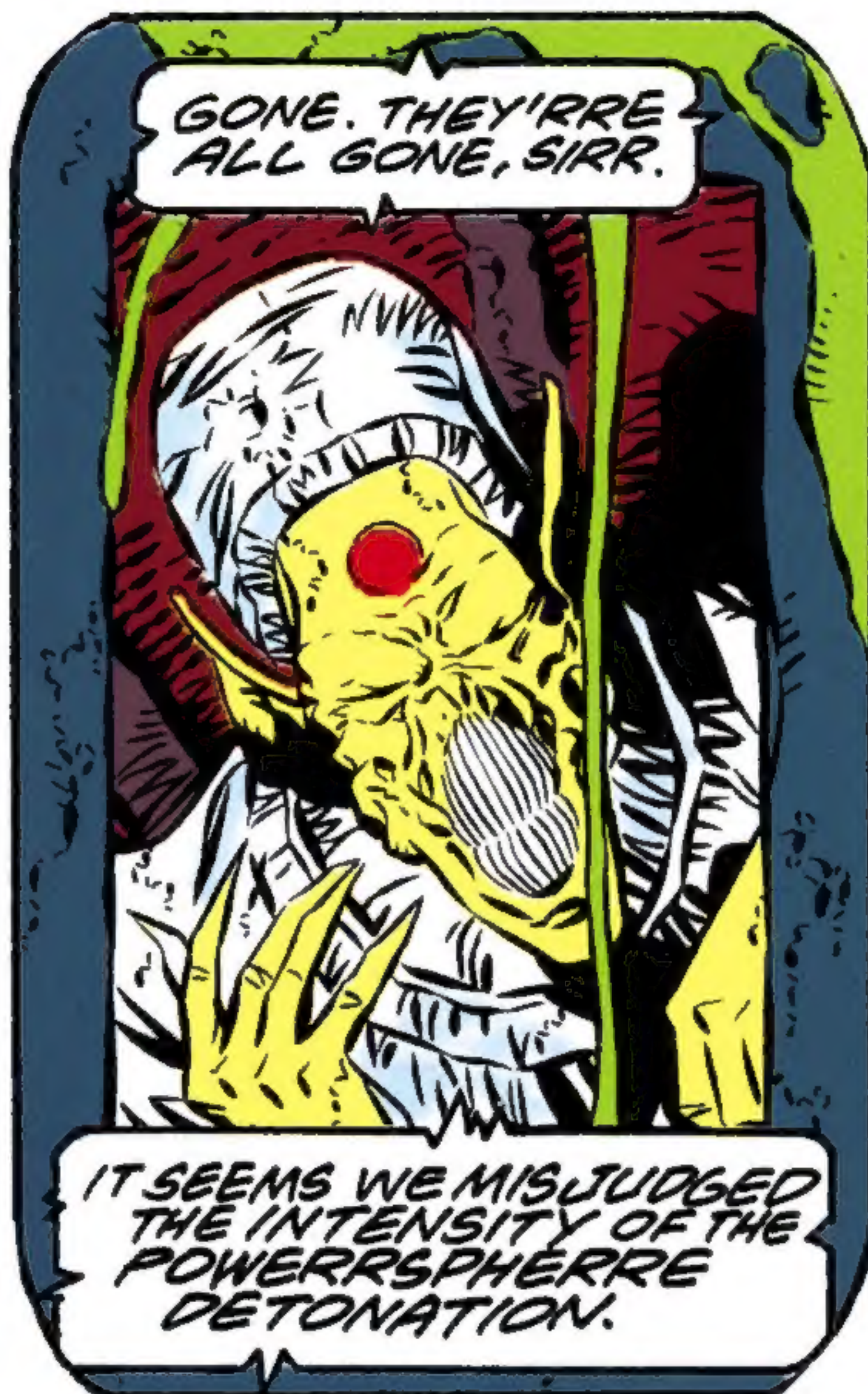
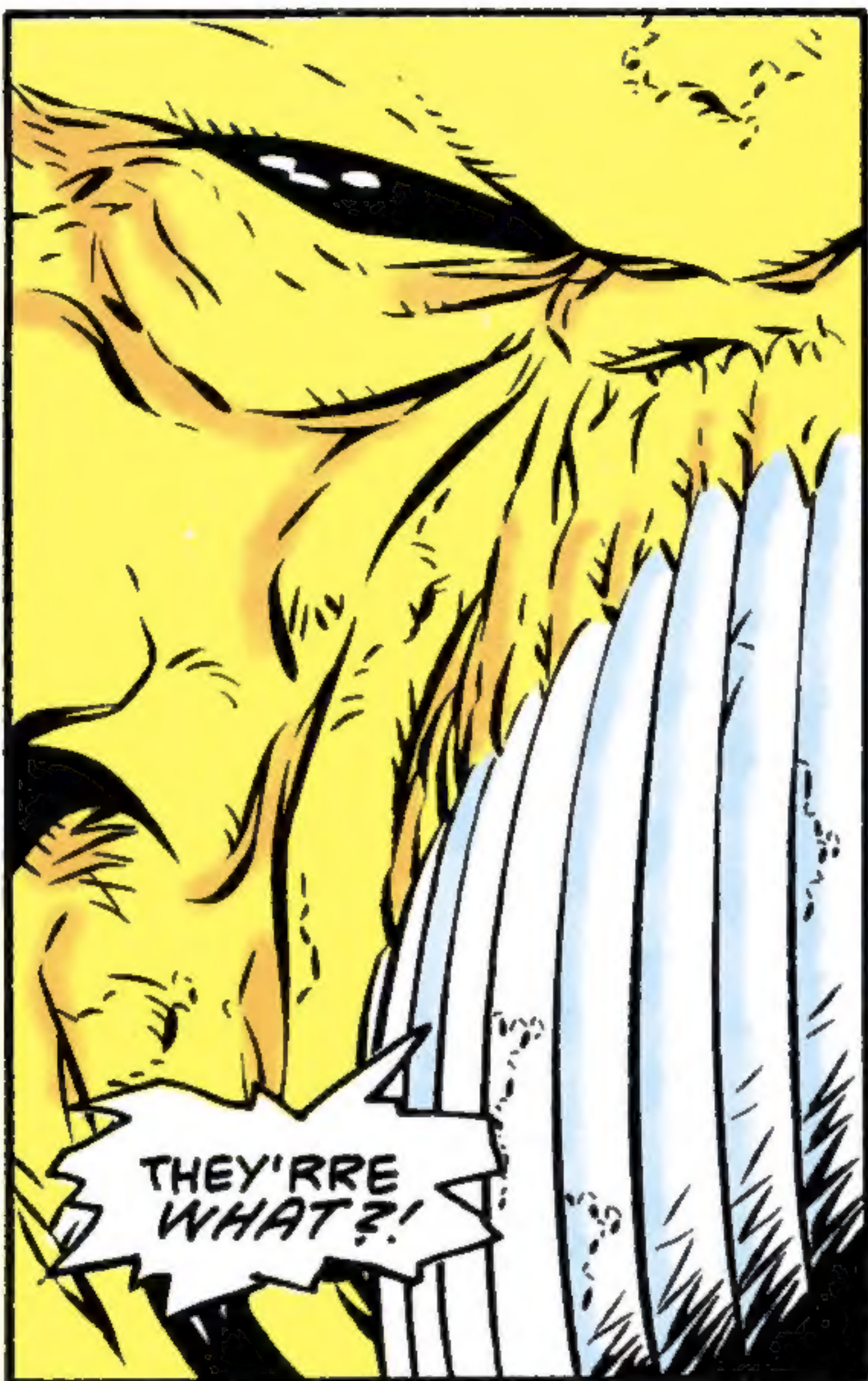
HEY, HEY, EASY!

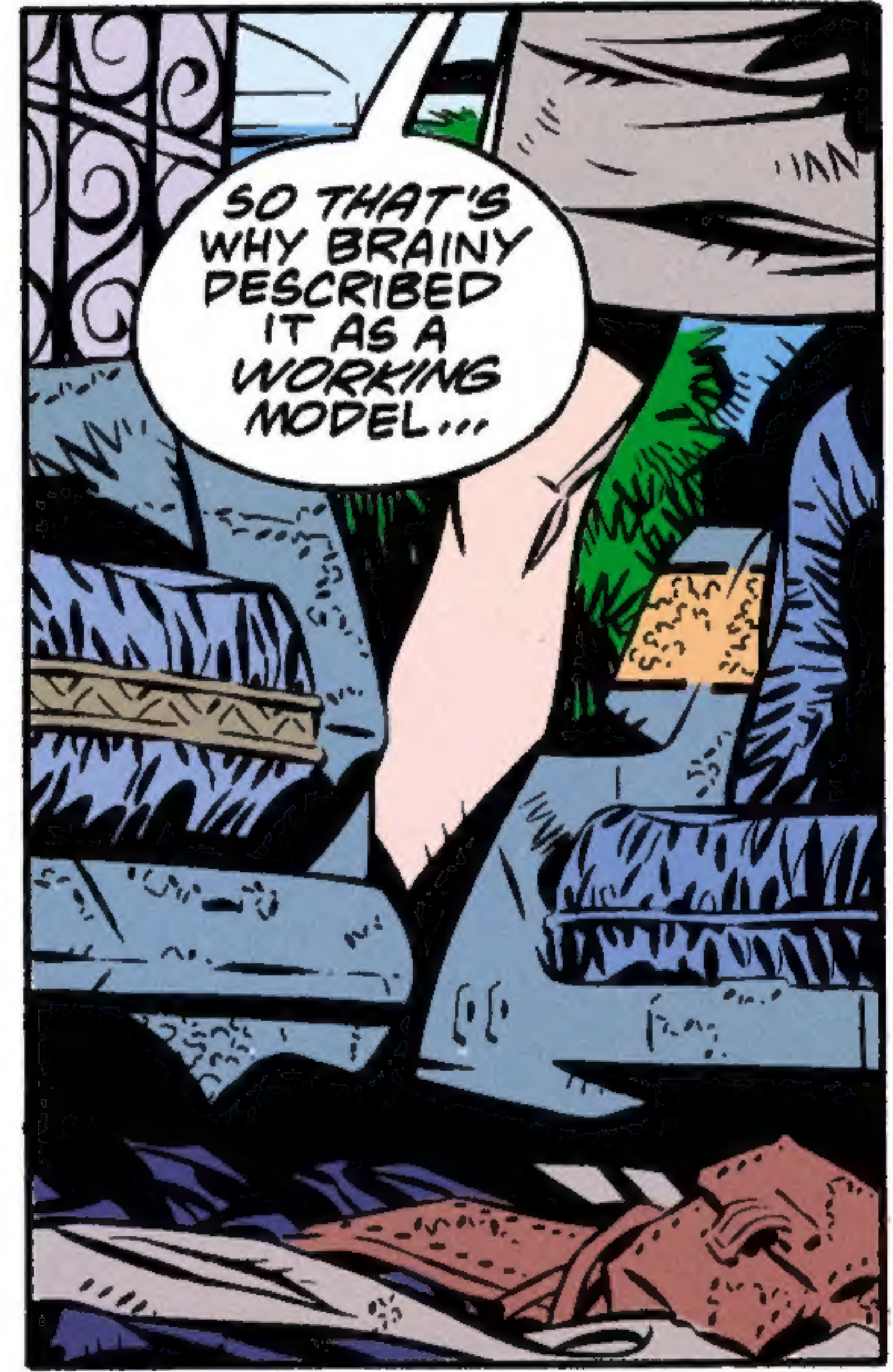
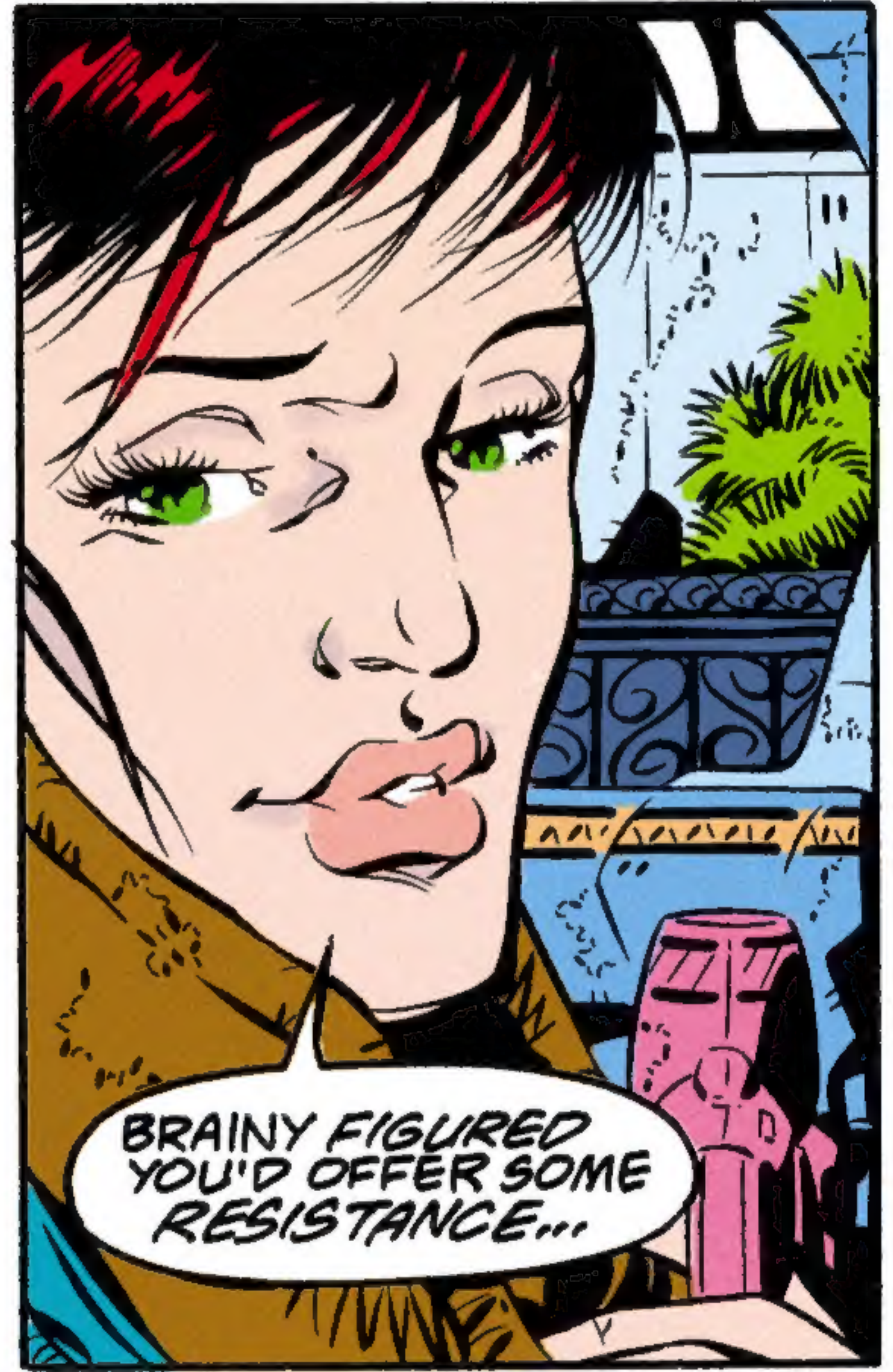
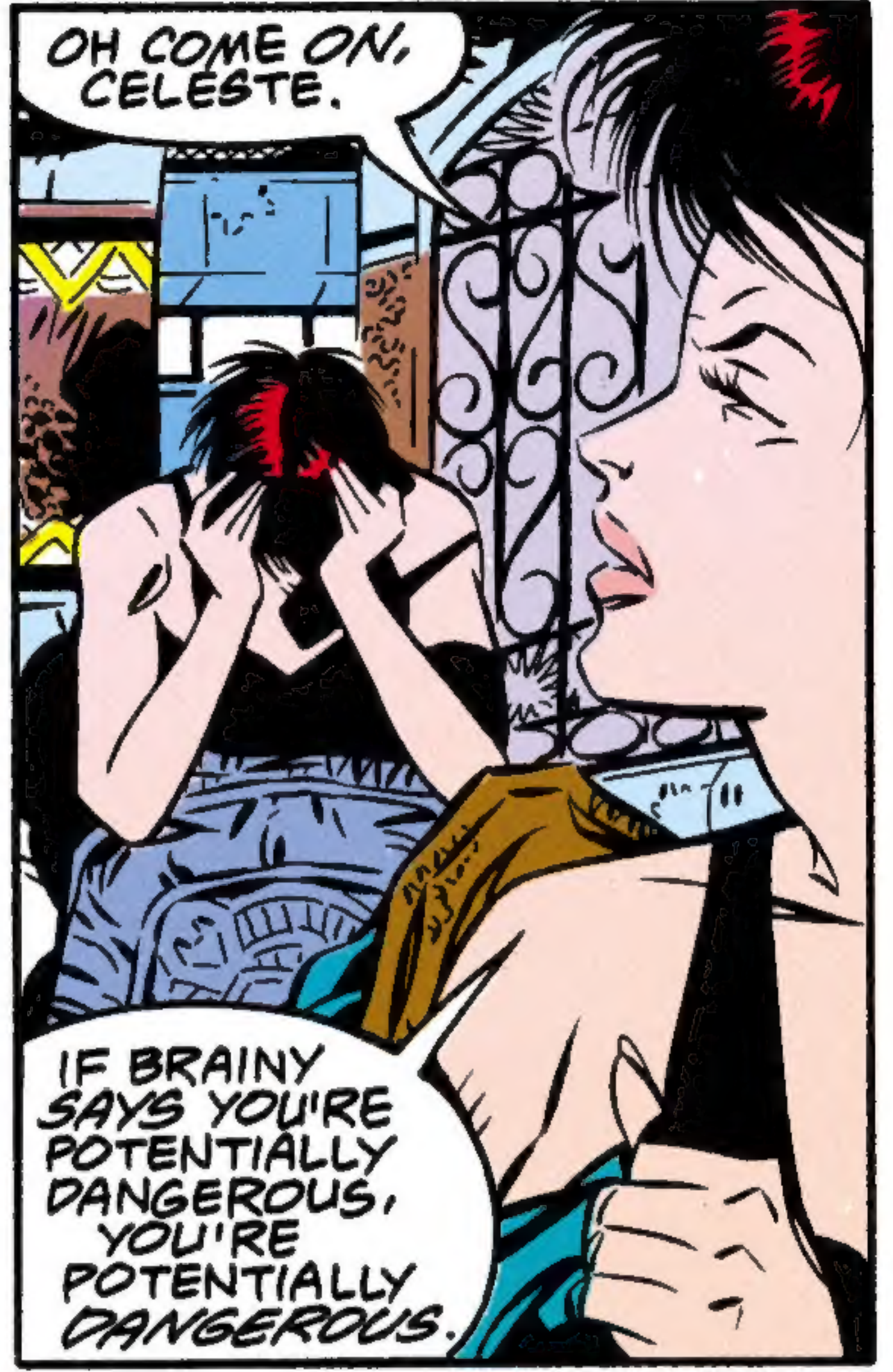
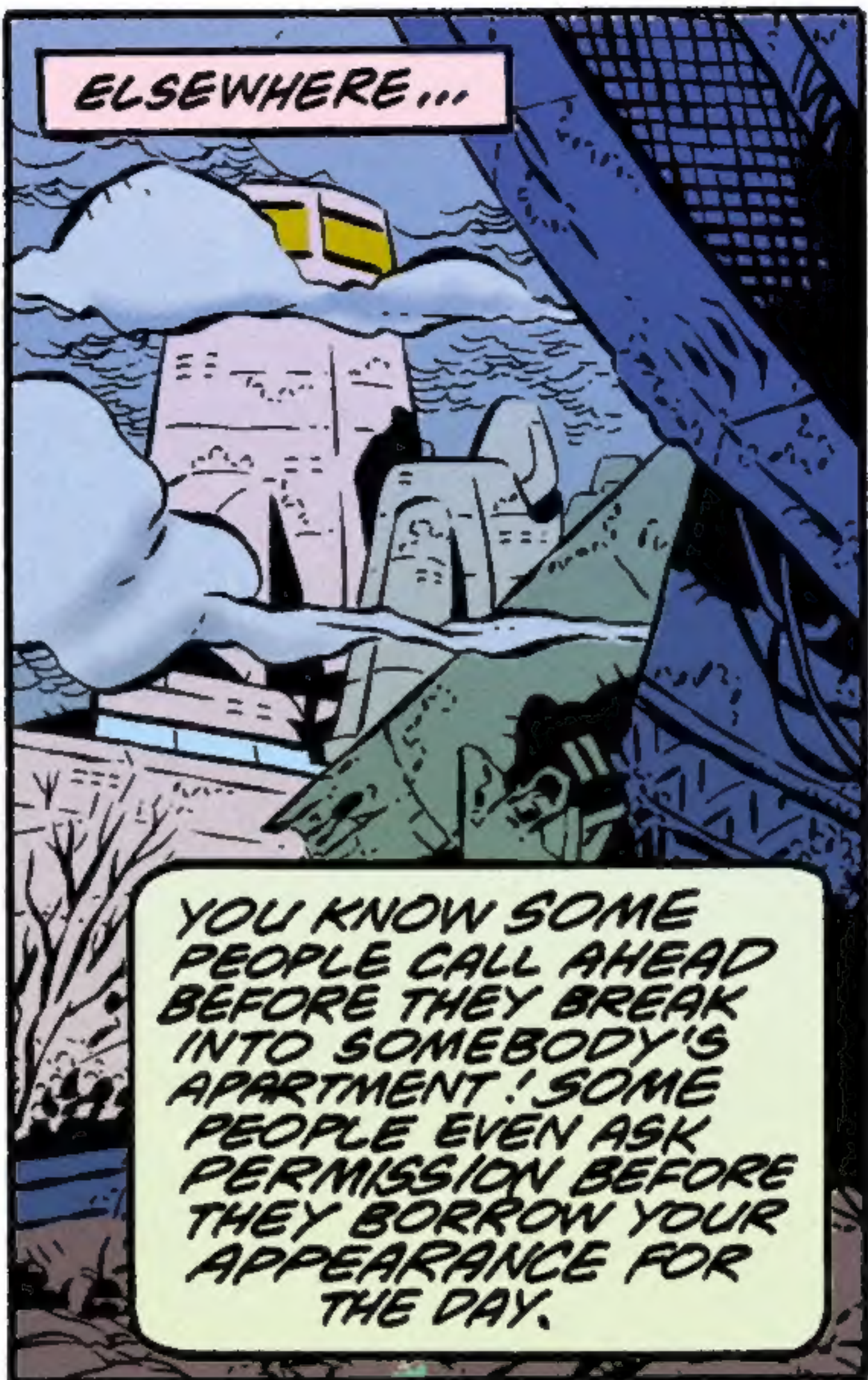
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

WELL, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SEEN, CAN WE?

WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT, HE'S JUST A KID!

OH MY GOODNESS, HE'S WOUNDED! HE NEEDS HELP!







LEGION HEADQUARTERS...

NOW I REALIZE YOU'RE A BIT UNHAPPY.

OKAY, OKAY, PERHAPS UNHAPPY DOESN'T SAY IT. INCENSED, MAYBE.



AND PERHAPS YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE.

NICE BLUSH TONES BUT... HMMM... JUST A TAD OVEREXPOSED...

NO, NO, CELESTE, PUT THAT DOWN...



I'LL PUT IT DOWN YOU, GREEN-SKINNED GEEK!

OH BOY!



THAT'S IT, YOU LITTLE COWARD! YOU'D BETTER RUN!

BY THE MUSES!



WOW! WHAT'DYA DO TA HER?!

I TRIED TO EXPLAIN IT TO HER! THE CLOTHES SHOULD HAVE COME WITH HER! THEORETICALLY!



TCH! WHERE'S HER SPIRIT OF SCIENTIFIC ADVEN--

KONO!

UH-OH! KENT!



TIME TO HAUL SOME BUTT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! SNAPSHOTS, IN THE DAMN SHOWER?!

YOU THINK THAT'S CLEVER?!



IS THERE A PROBLEM, KENT?

NO! NO PROBLEM! NOT AFTER I KILL HER!

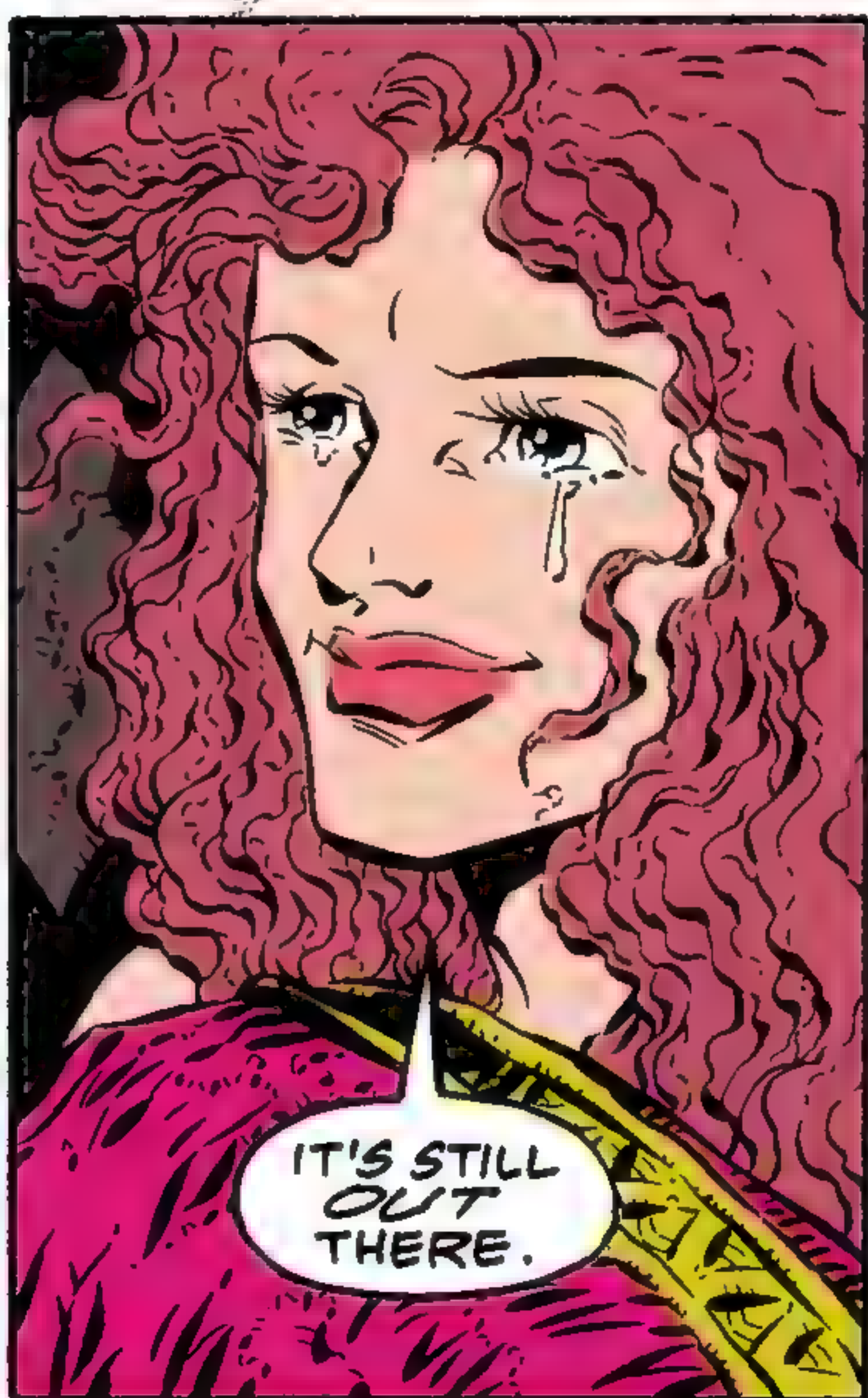
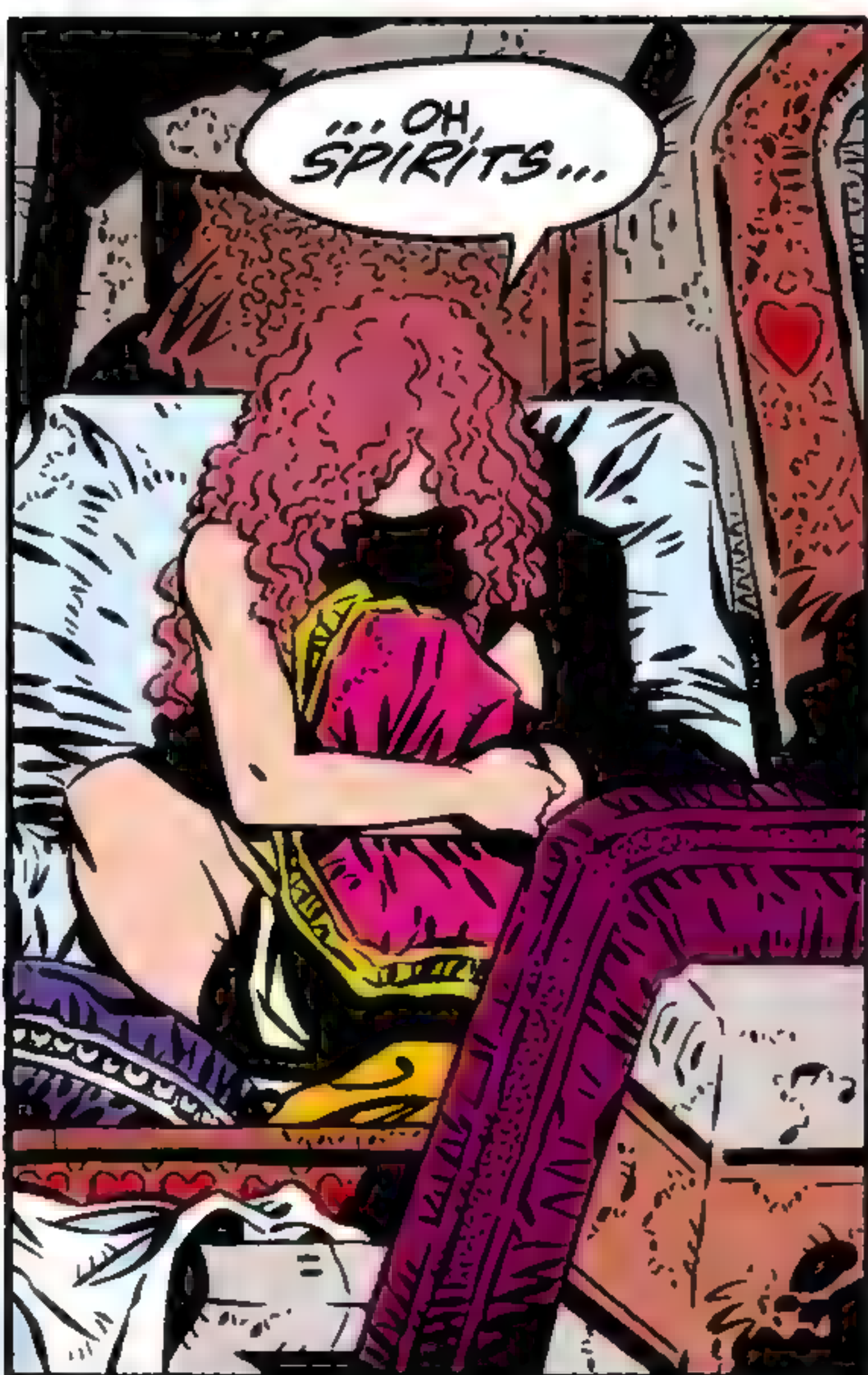
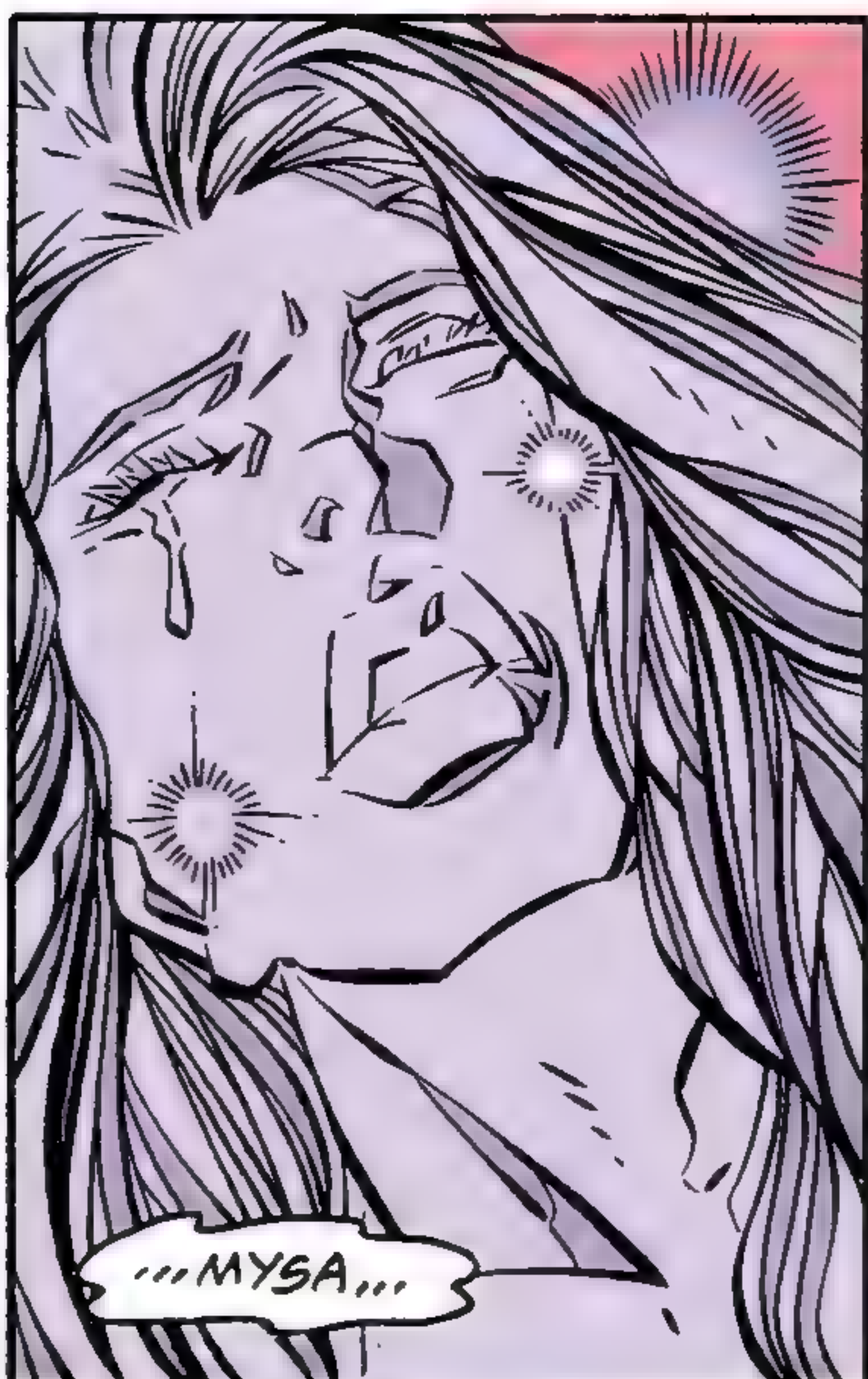
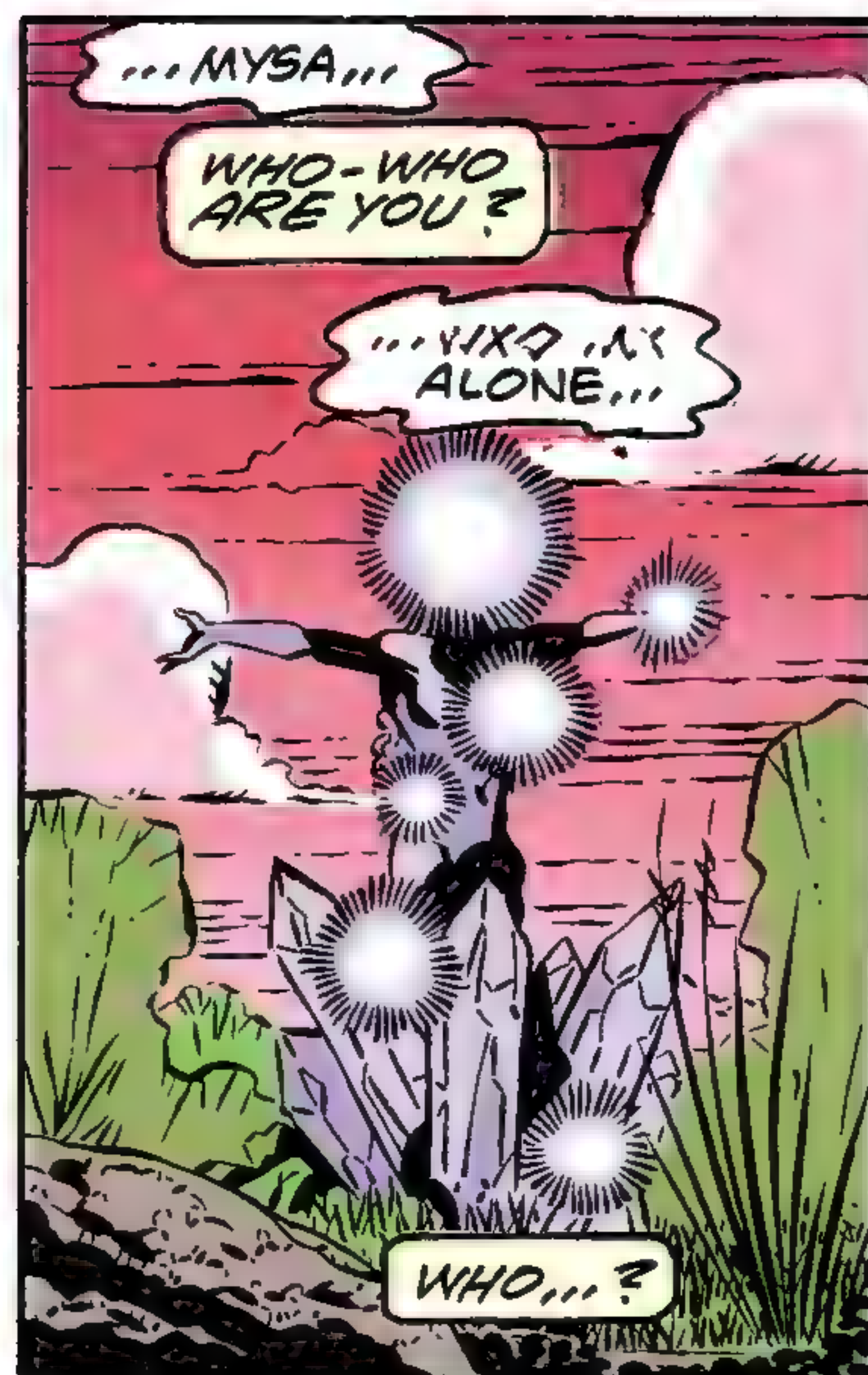


AH, OF COURSE.

RRRRR!

AFTER ALL, WHAT'S ONE MORE ATTEMPTED MURDER AROUND HERE, MORE OR LESS.

KISHH KRASH





NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LOOK AT IT, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.



IT'S HIM. NO QUESTION.

SO HOW THE HELL DO WE EXPLAIN THIS TO THE UNIVERSE?



HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THAT MAYBE THE DOMINATORS DIDN'T DESTROY LUNA.

THAT MAYBE HE DID.



ANSWER?

WE DON'T.



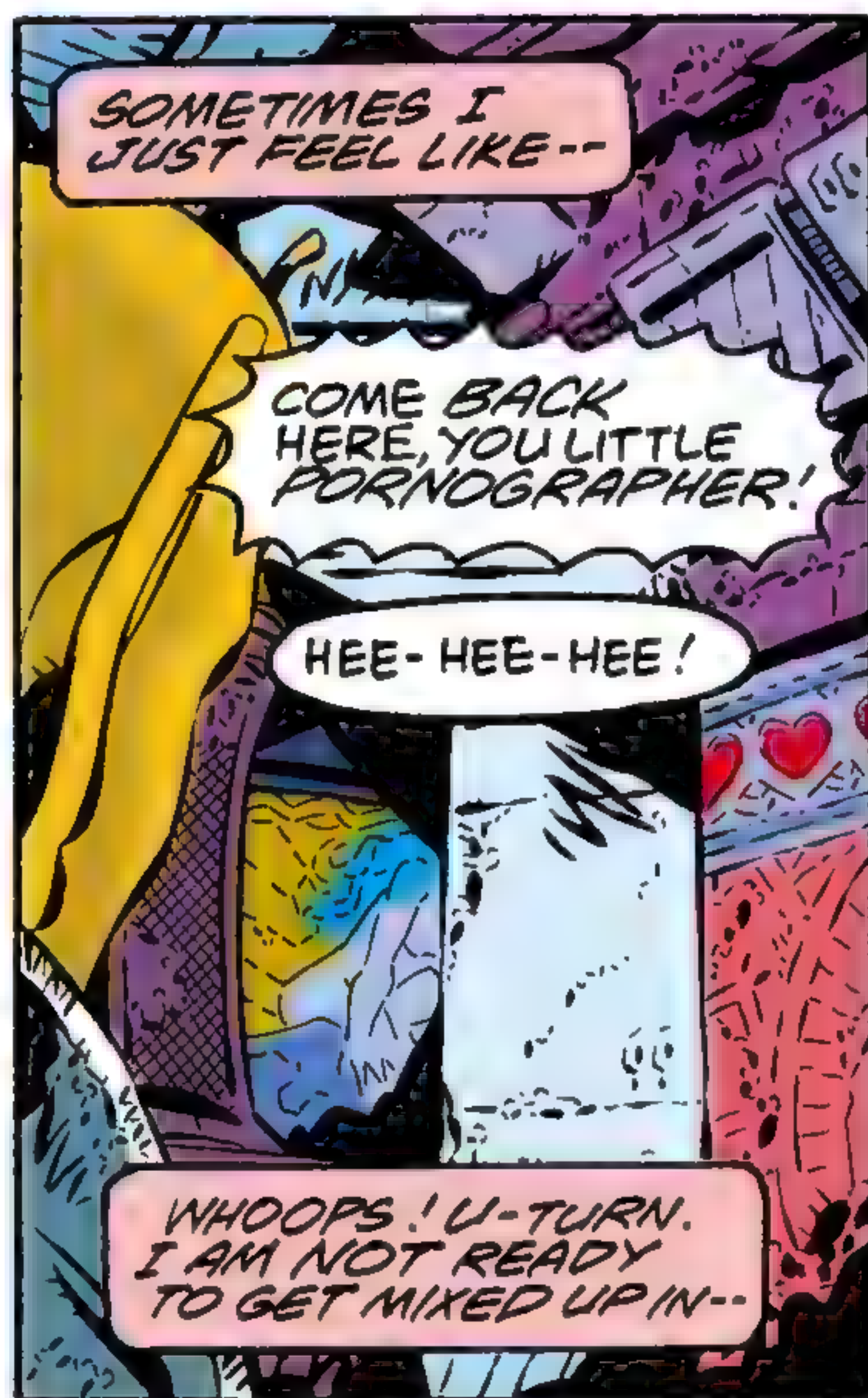
WE PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.

SIGH



ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF ALL TIME SHOWS UP IN OUR CENTURY...

AND WE HAVE TO TREAT IT LIKE A DIRTY LITTLE SCANDAL...



SOMETIMES I JUST FEEL LIKE--

COME BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE PORNOGRAPHER!

HEE-HEE-HEE!

WHOOOPS! U-TURN. I AM NOT READY TO GET MIXED UP IN--

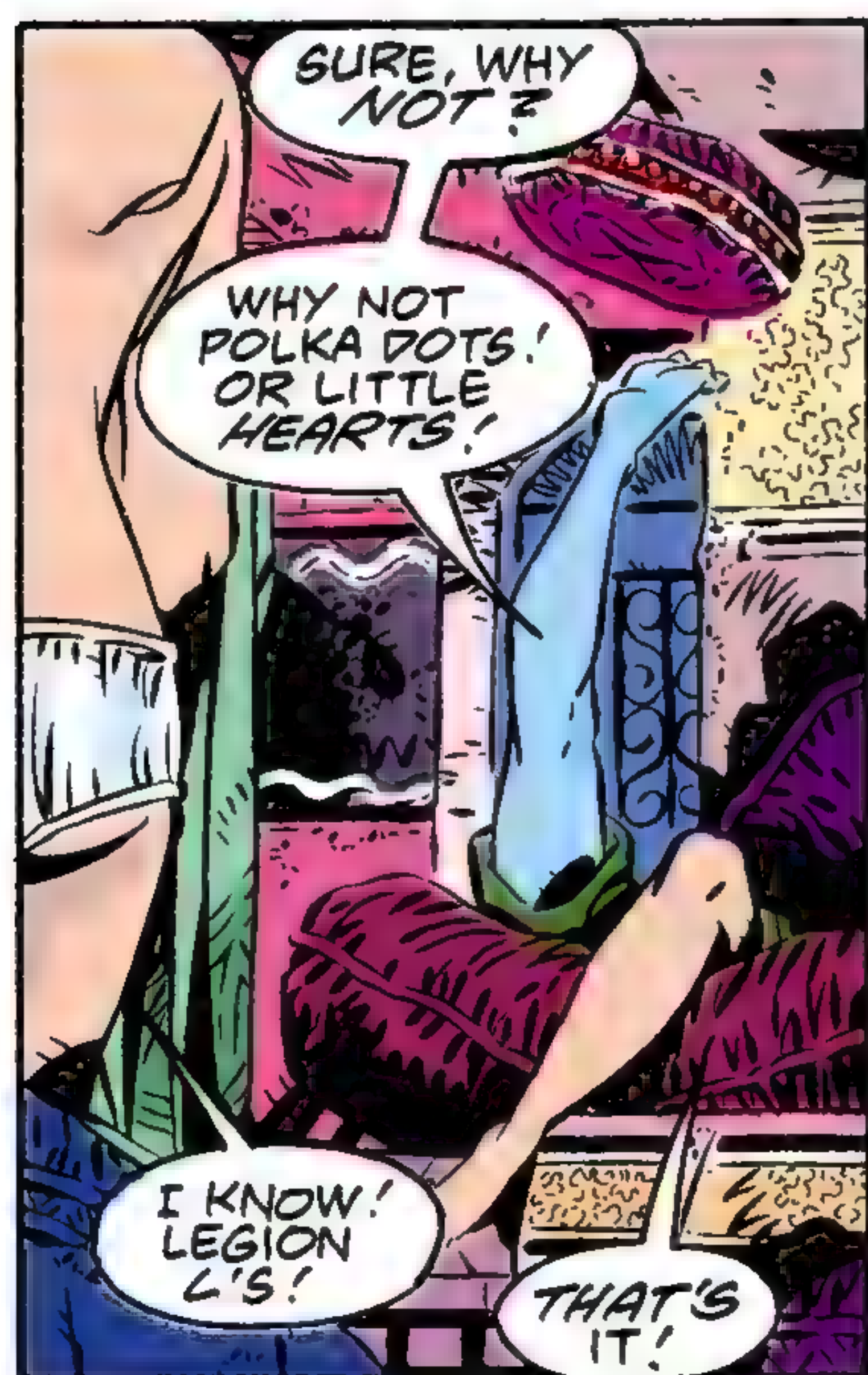
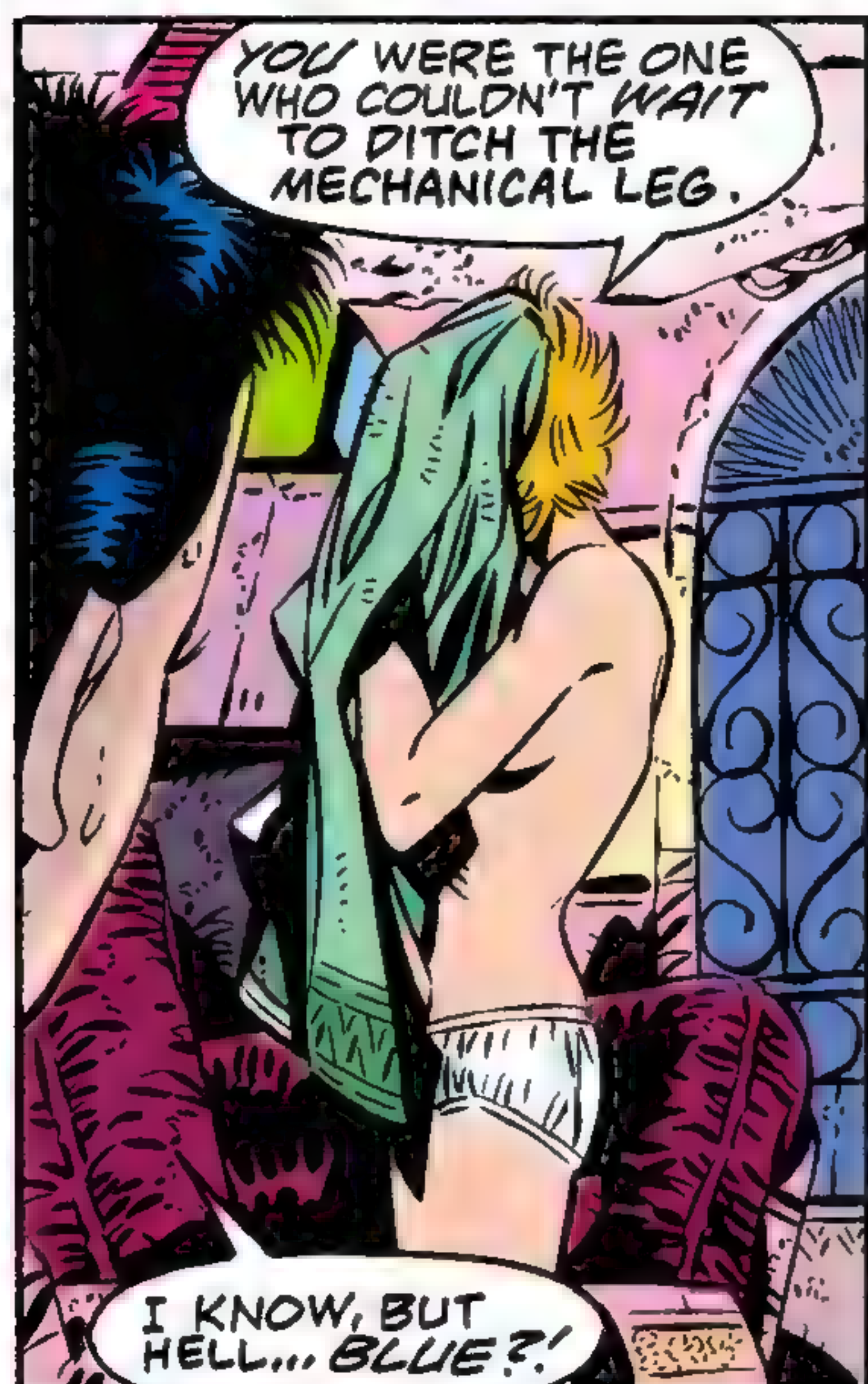
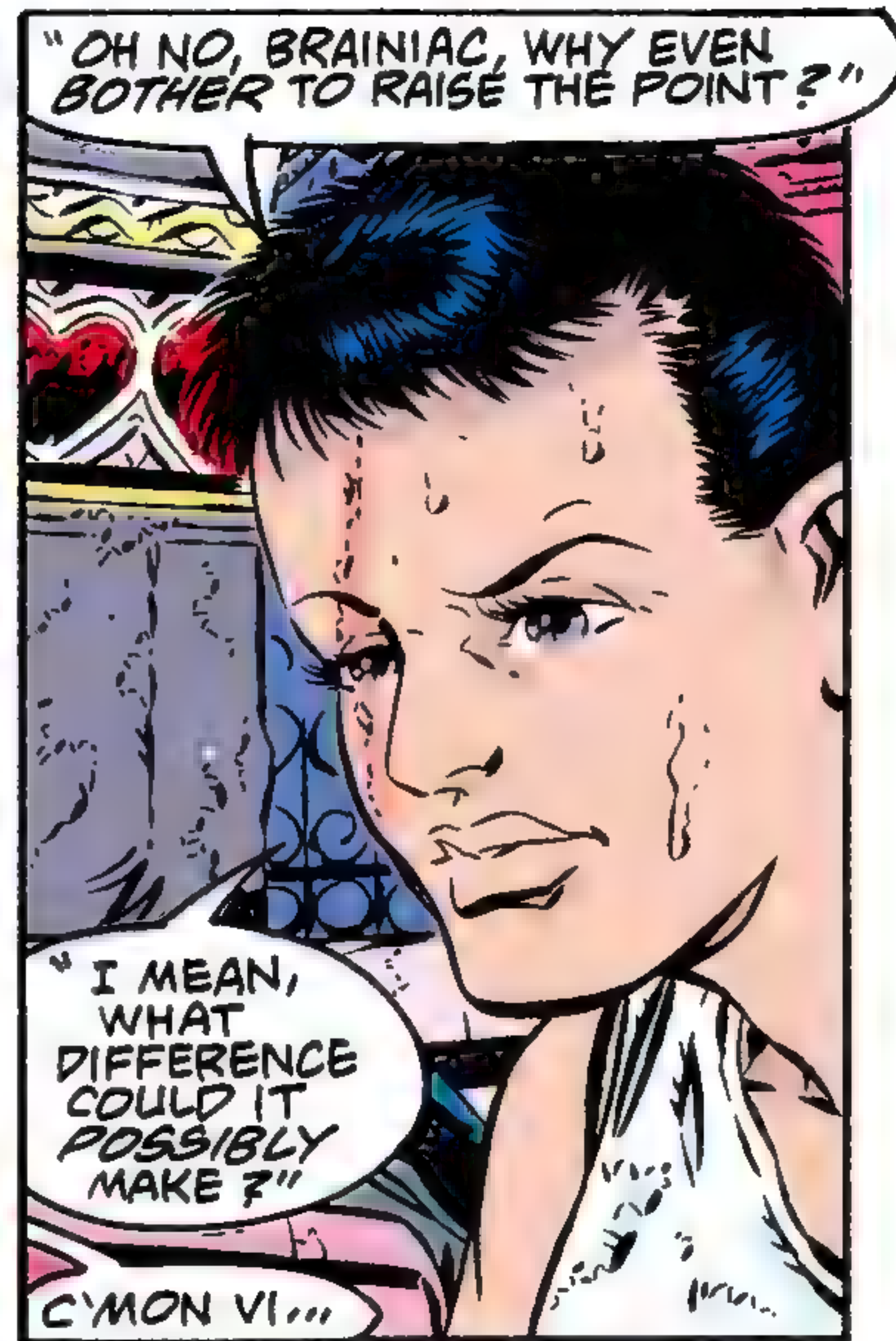


THERE YOU ARE!

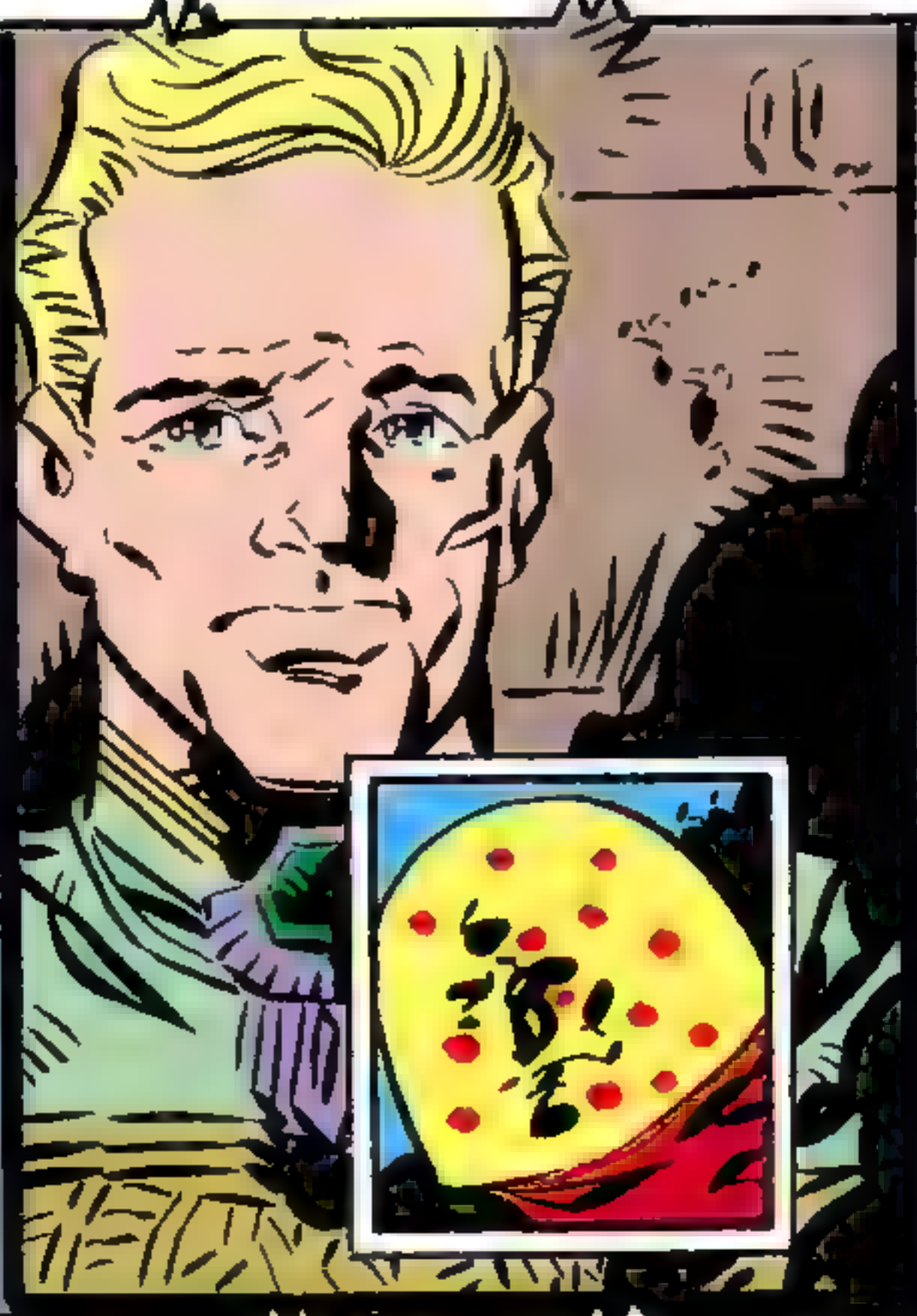
...NO, NO, NO...

DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT PORTSIDE STABILIZER WASN'T STABLE?

AND ANOTHER THING...



-- ARE REPORTING THE MURDER OF CHAR BURRANE JR.,...

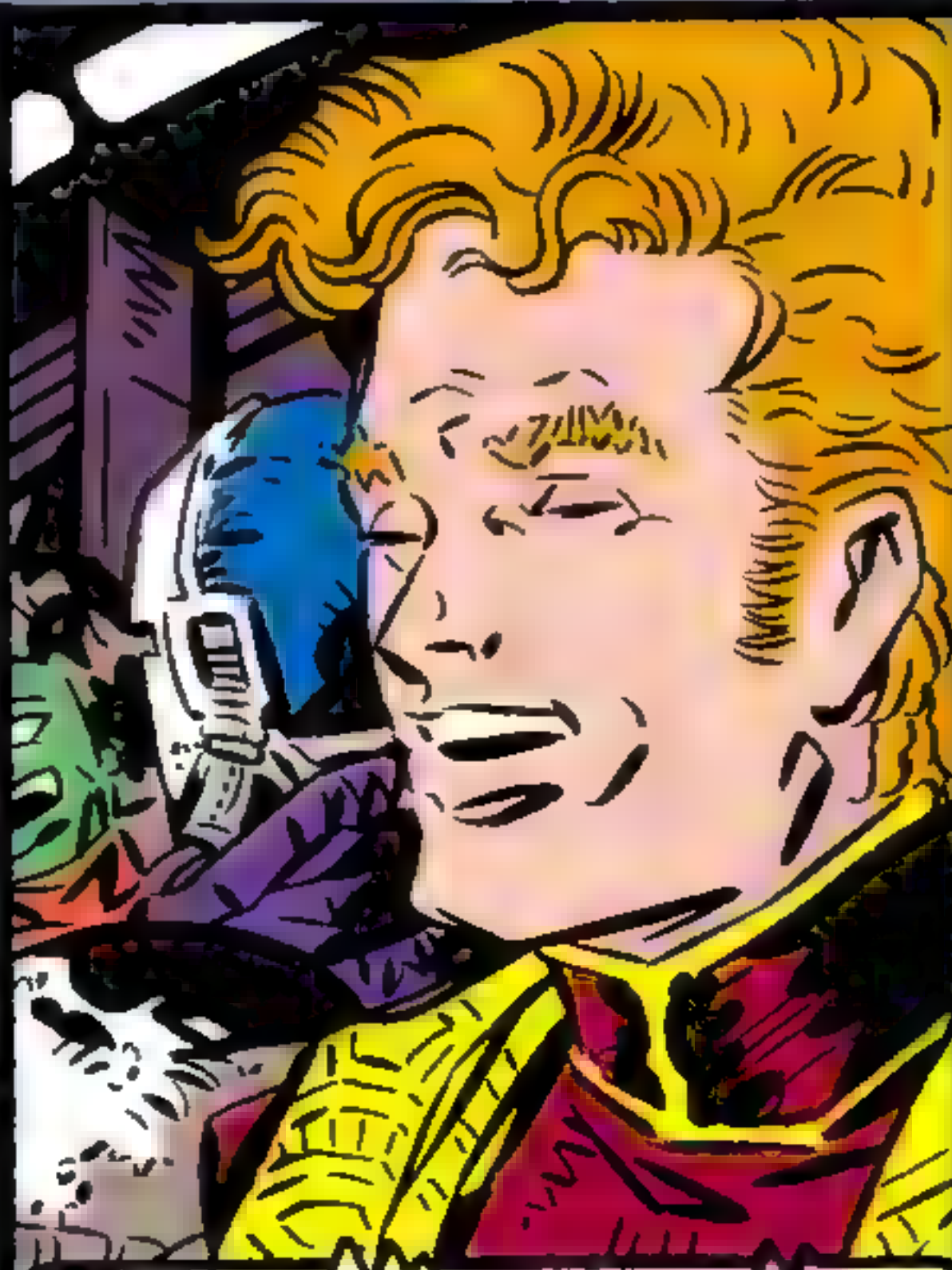


...ONLY SURVIVING SON OF THE LATE CHAR BURRANE SENIOR, ONCE KNOWN AS STARFINGER.

POLICE REFUSE TO COMMENT ON THE INVESTIGATION, OR A REPORT THAT THE VICTIM'S RING FINGER WAS FOUND SEVERED.



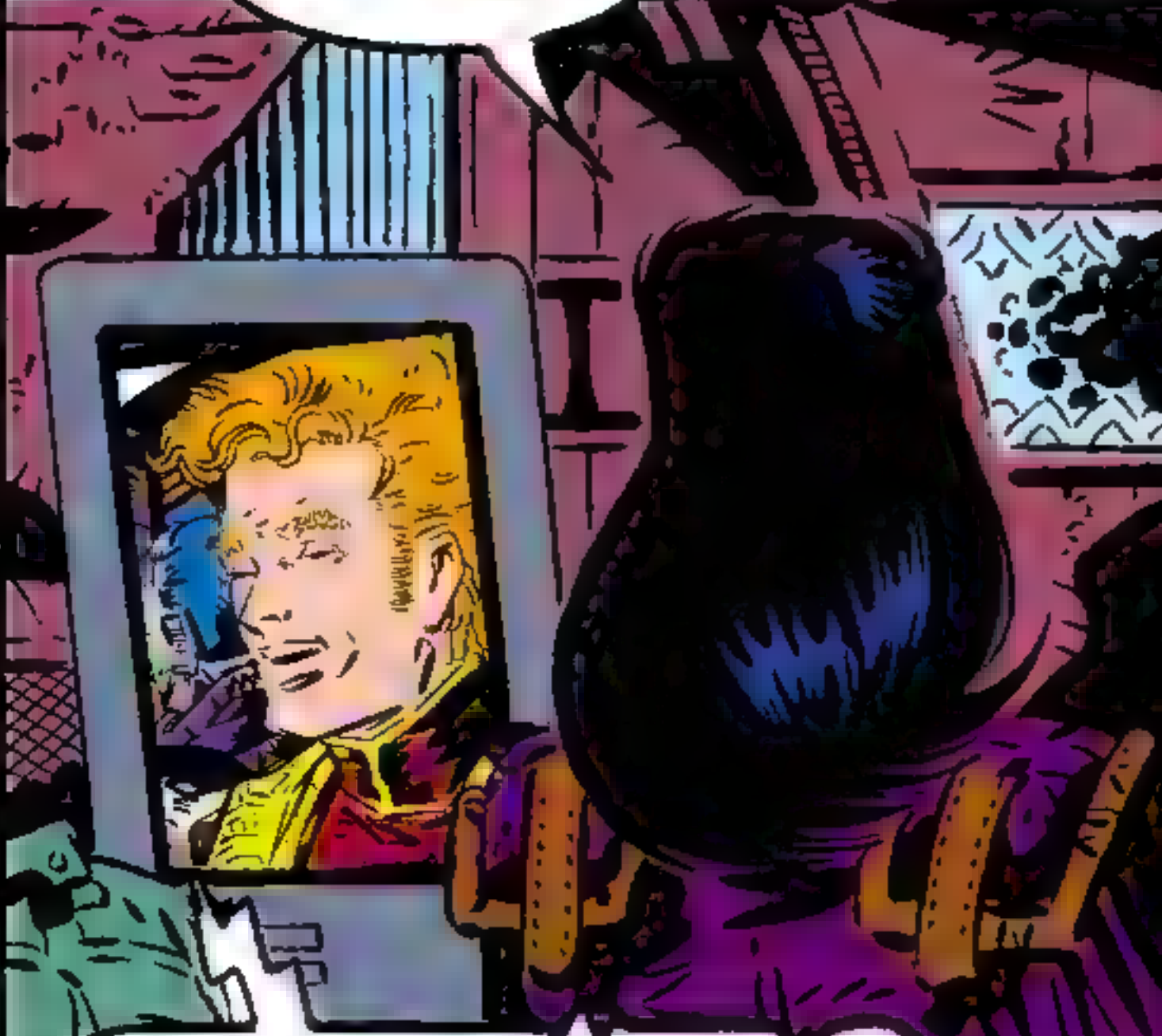
BACK ON EARTH, THE TOLL FROM LAST WEEK'S DISASTER THERE CONTINUES TO MOUNT.



EARTHGOV ANNOUNCED TODAY THE LATEST PROMINENT VICTIM OF THE MASSIVE TRAGEDY IS DIRK MORGNA, FORMER LEGIONNAIRE SUN BOY.

DIRK?! NO!

OH NO!

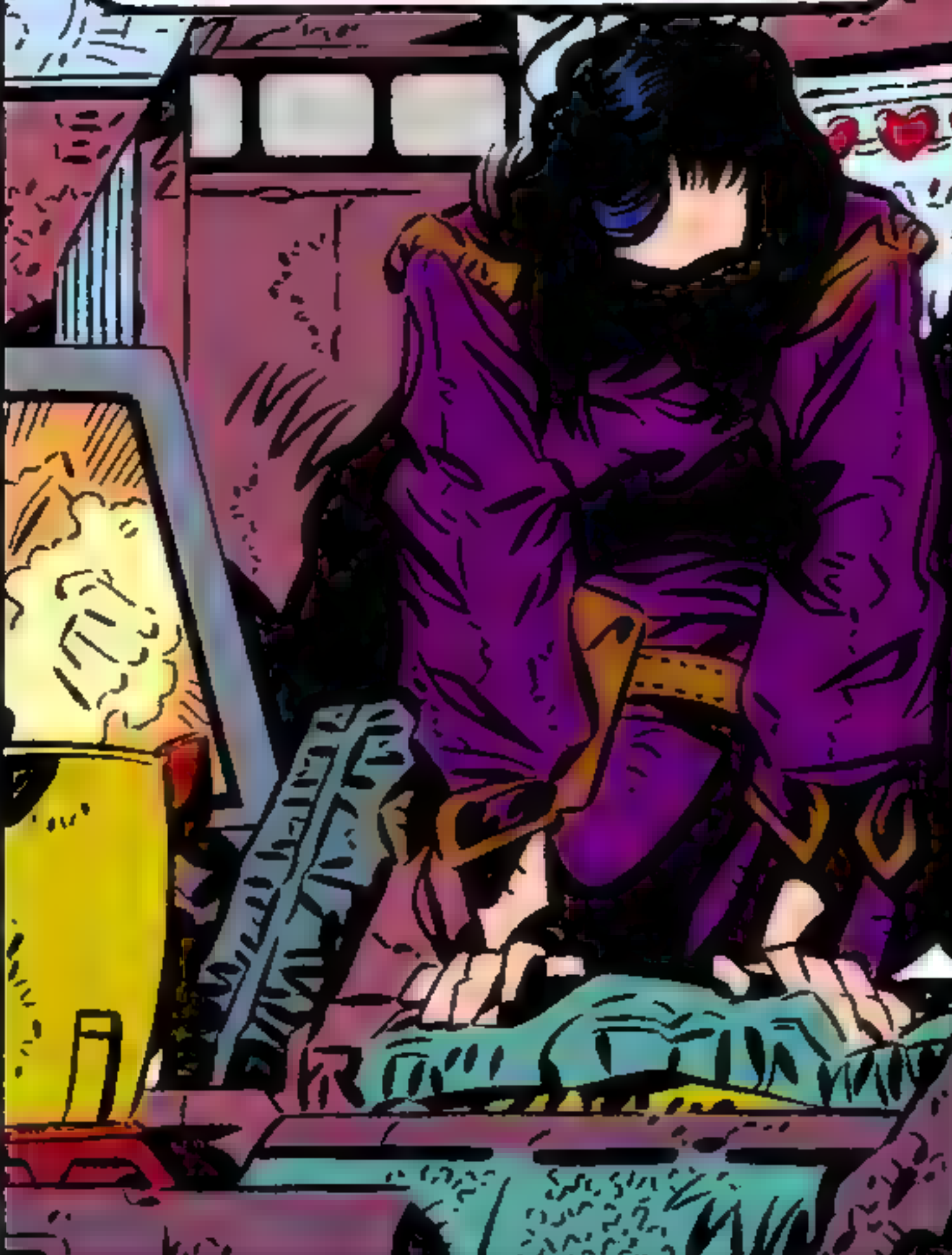


A SPOKESMAN SAID MORGNA DIED OF MASSIVE BURNS CAUSED BY THE STILL-UNEXPLAINED DETONATION OF THE METROPOLIS POWERSPHERE.



OH DIRK... GEEZ, YOU FINALLY DID IT, YOU FINALLY GOT YOURSELF IN TOO DEEP...

BLAST. I'D BETTER TELL ROKK... SEE HOW HE MANAGES TO BLAME HIMSELF FOR THIS ONE.



JUST WHAT WE NEED ON OUR FIRST NIGHT TOGETHER IN THIS HANGAR--




INCOMING HOLO?

MAYBE IT'S THE NEWS ABOUT DIRK, OR-- MOTHERSTAR-- SOMEBODY ELSE...

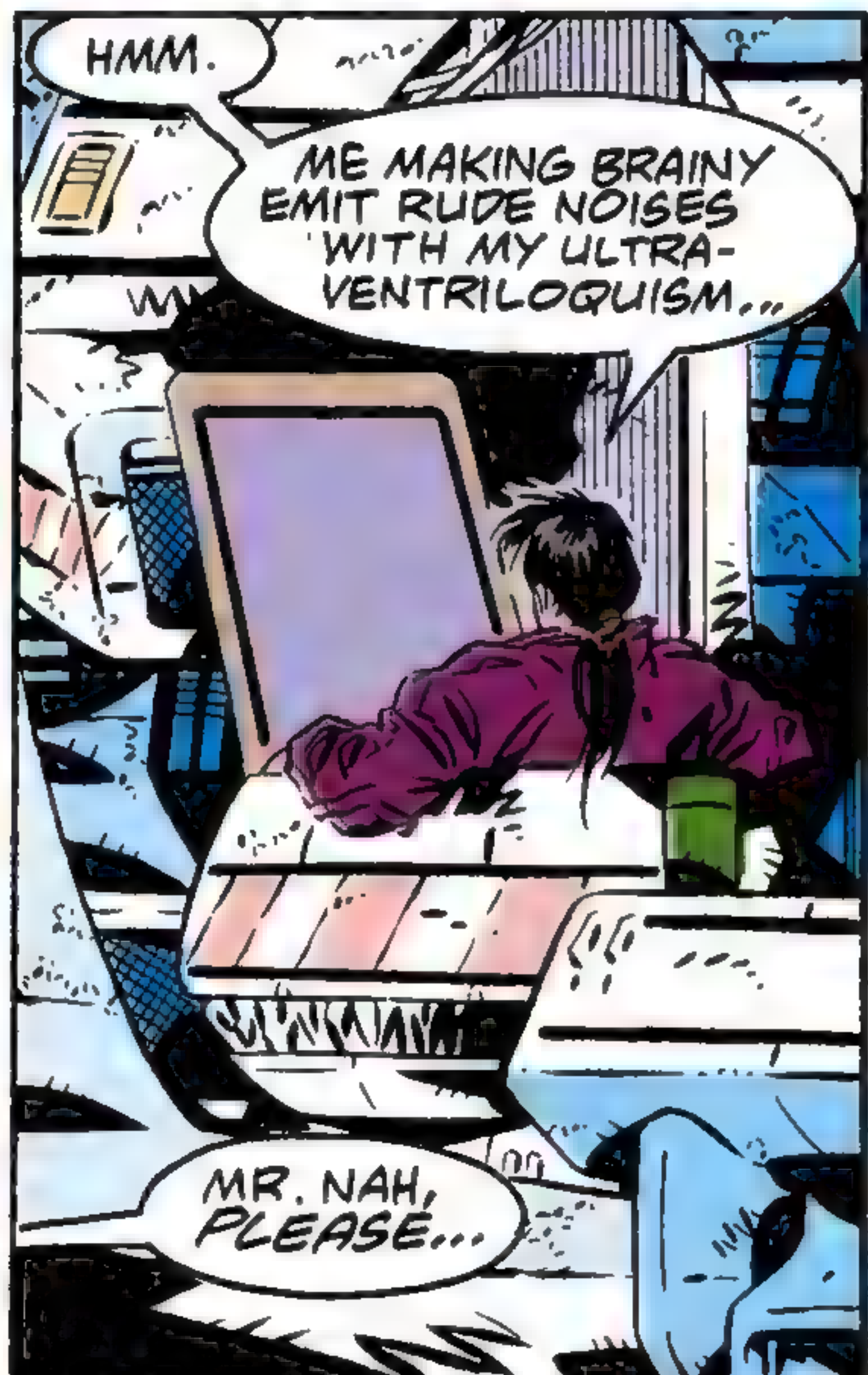
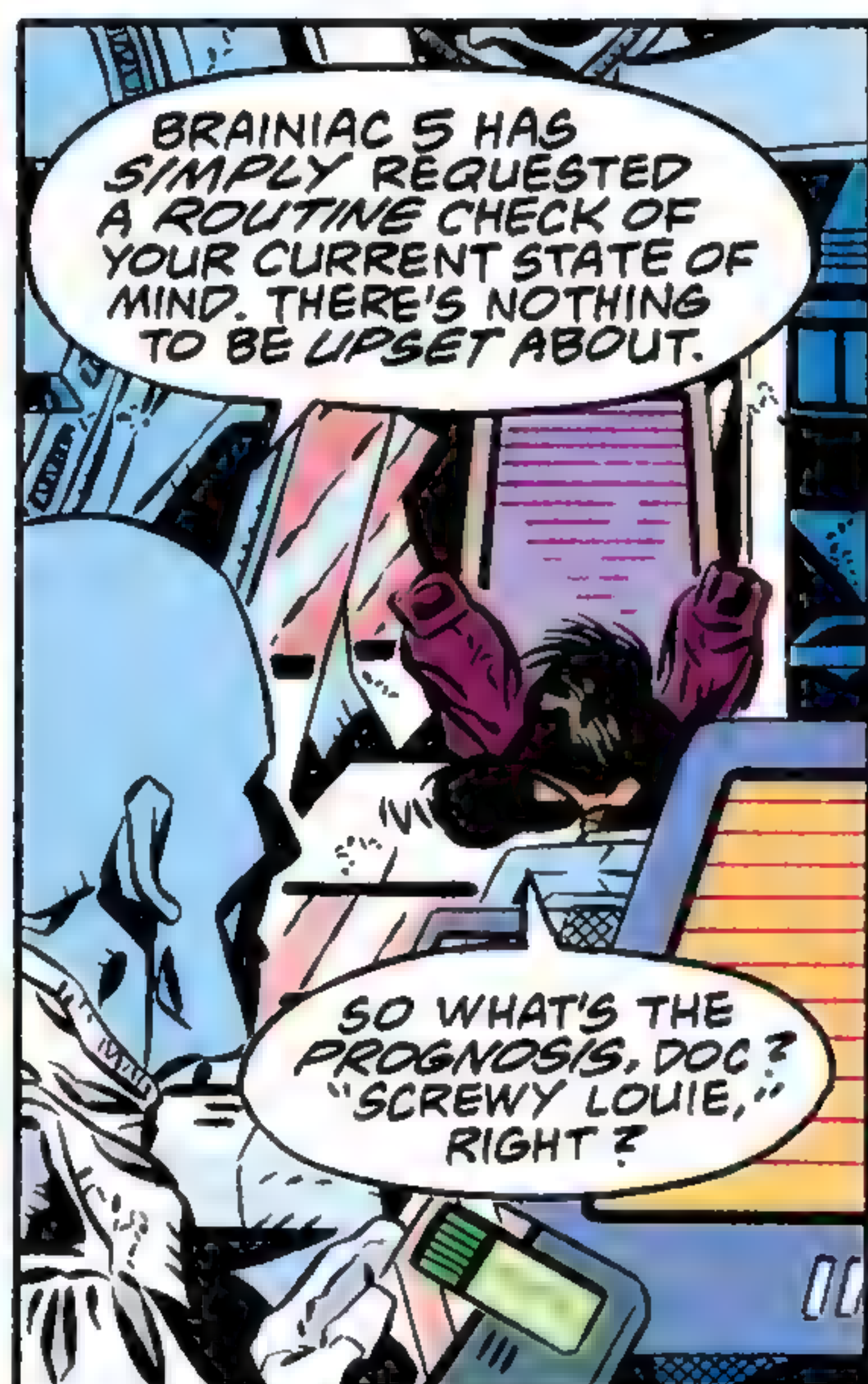
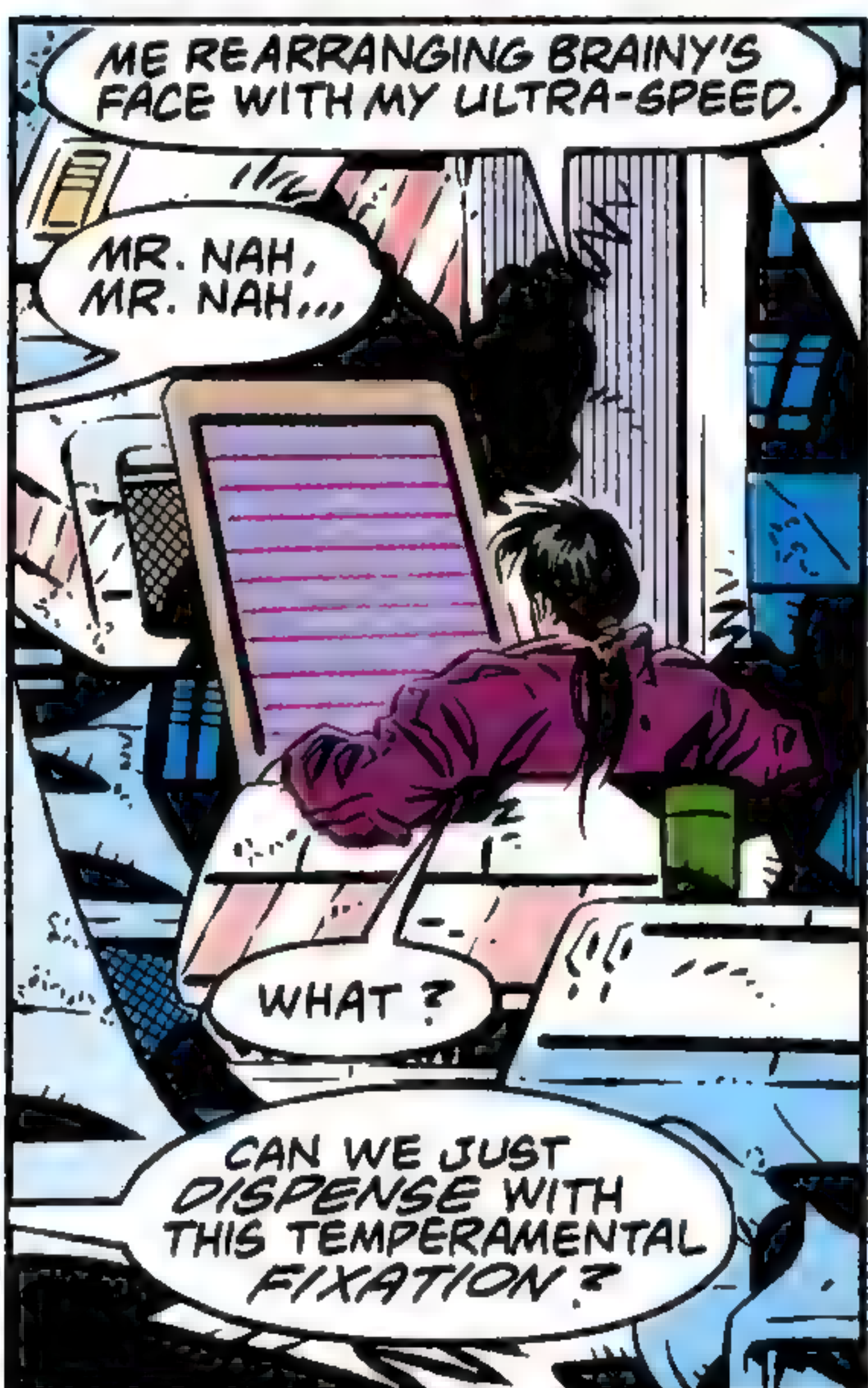
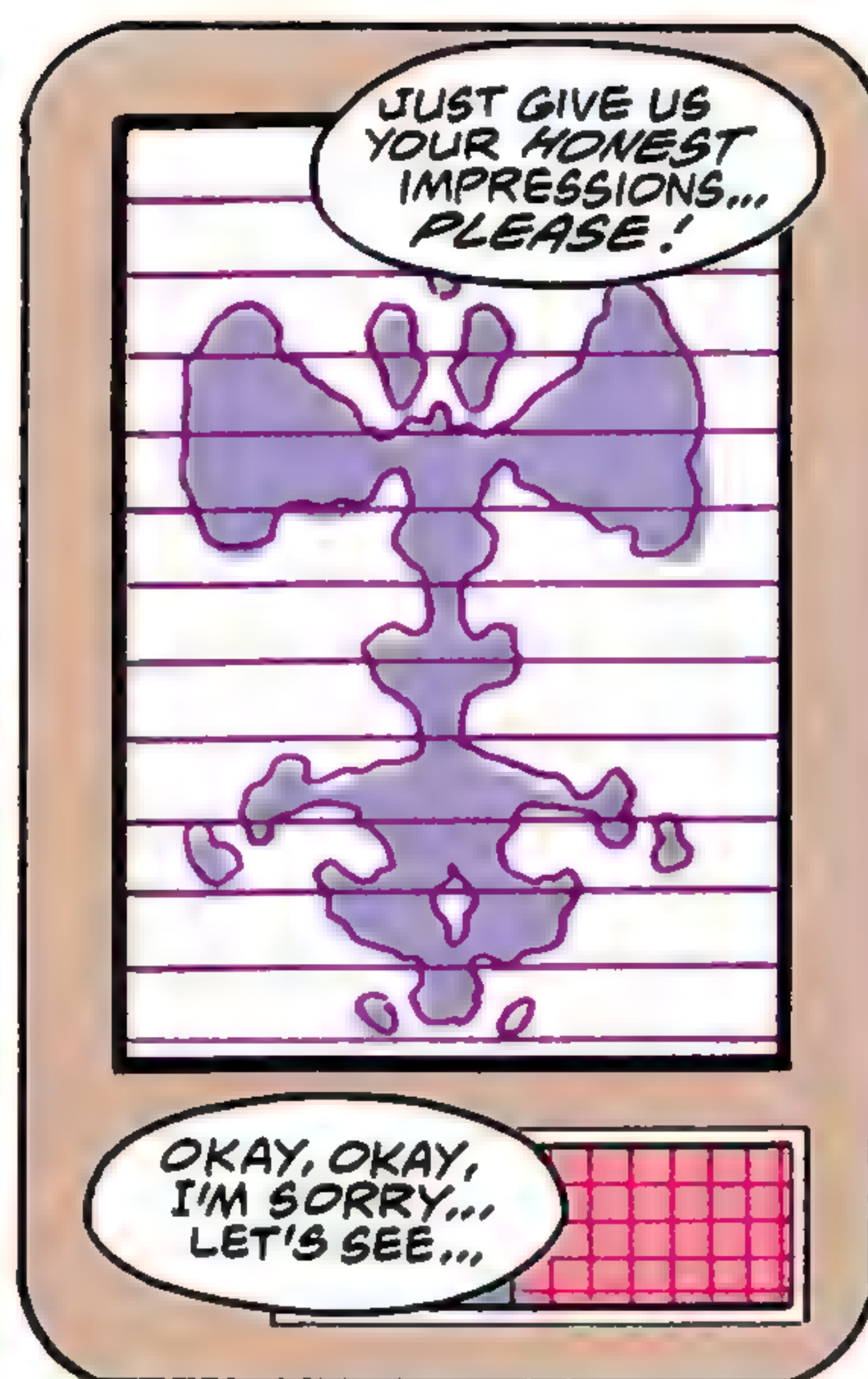


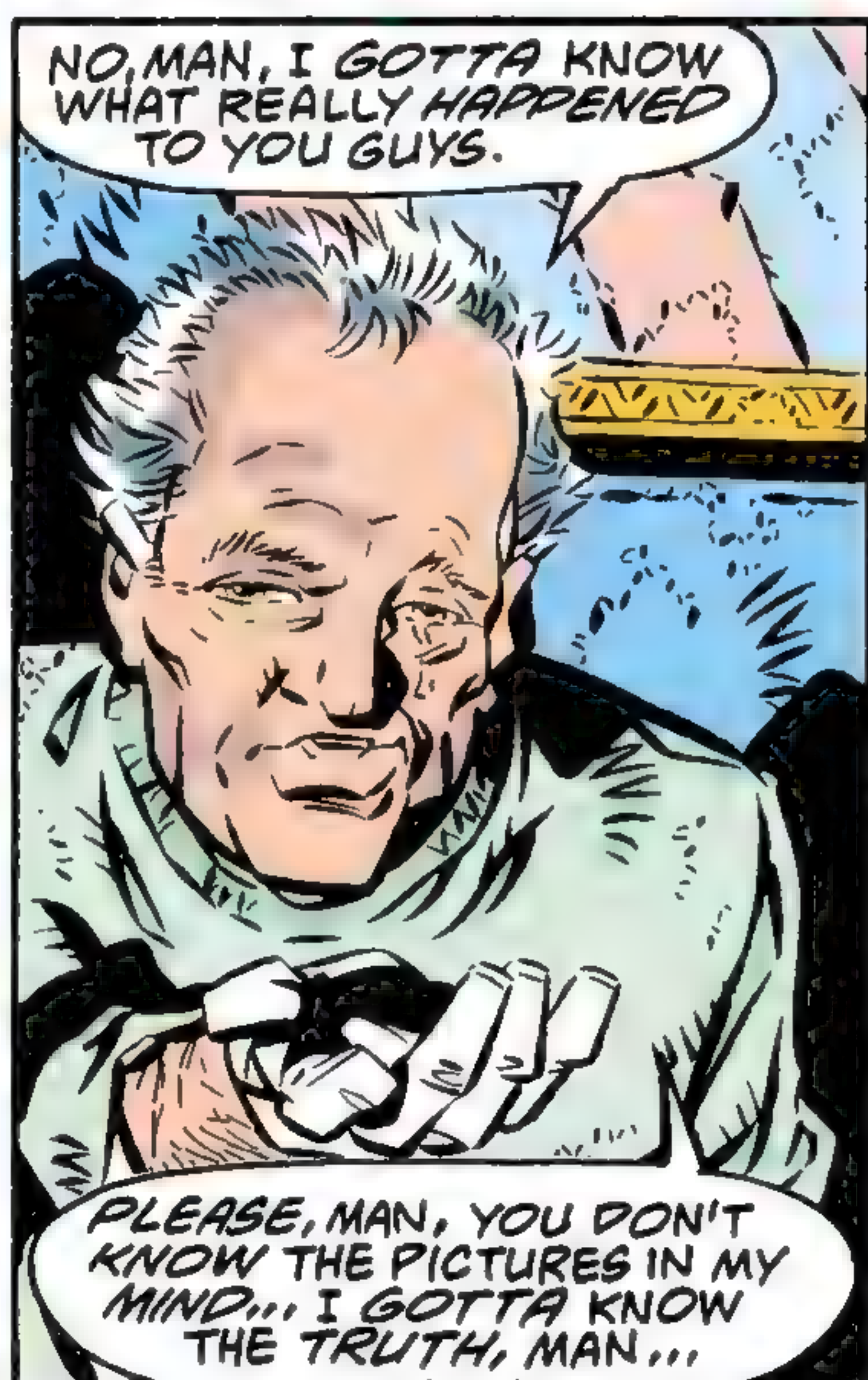
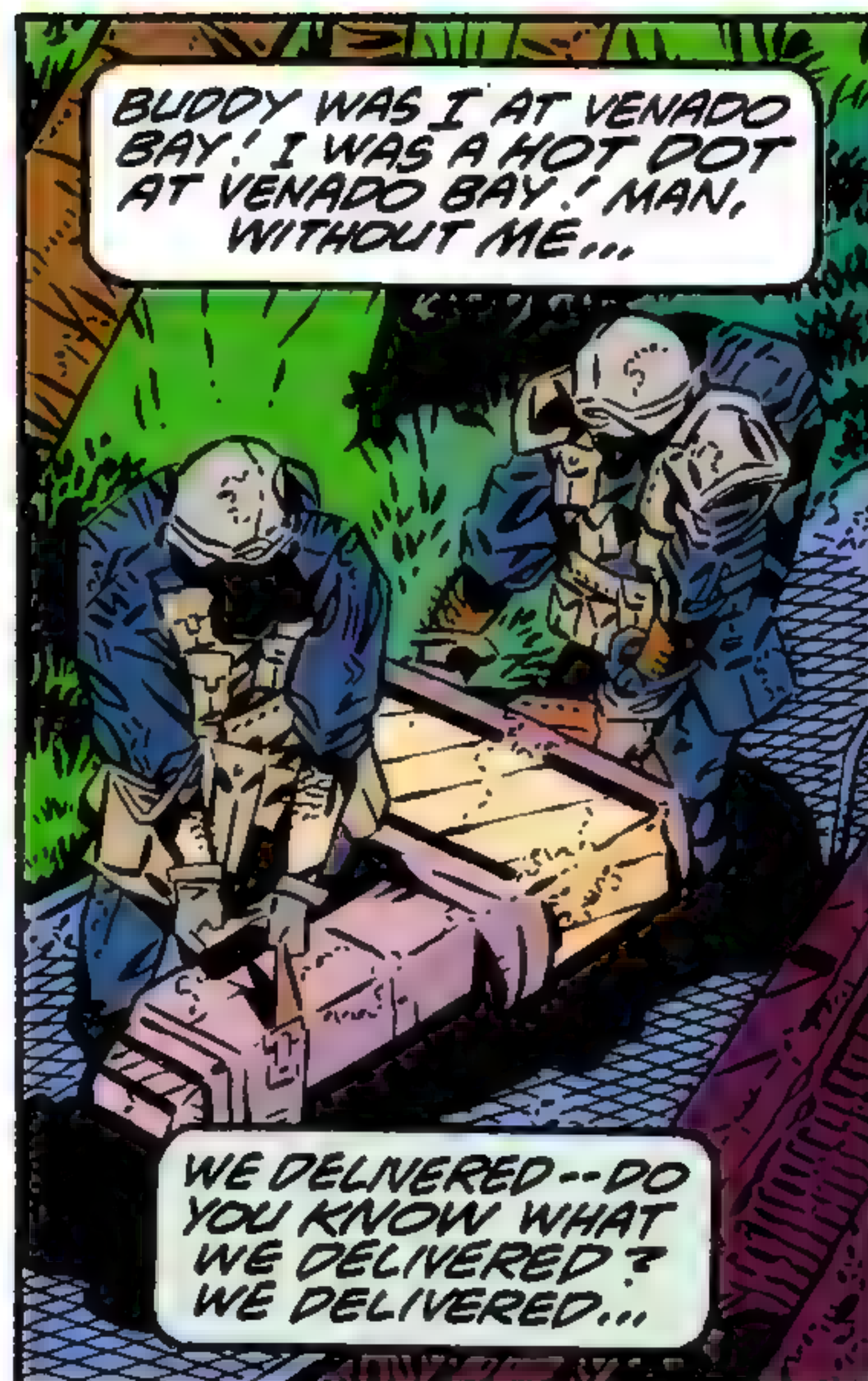
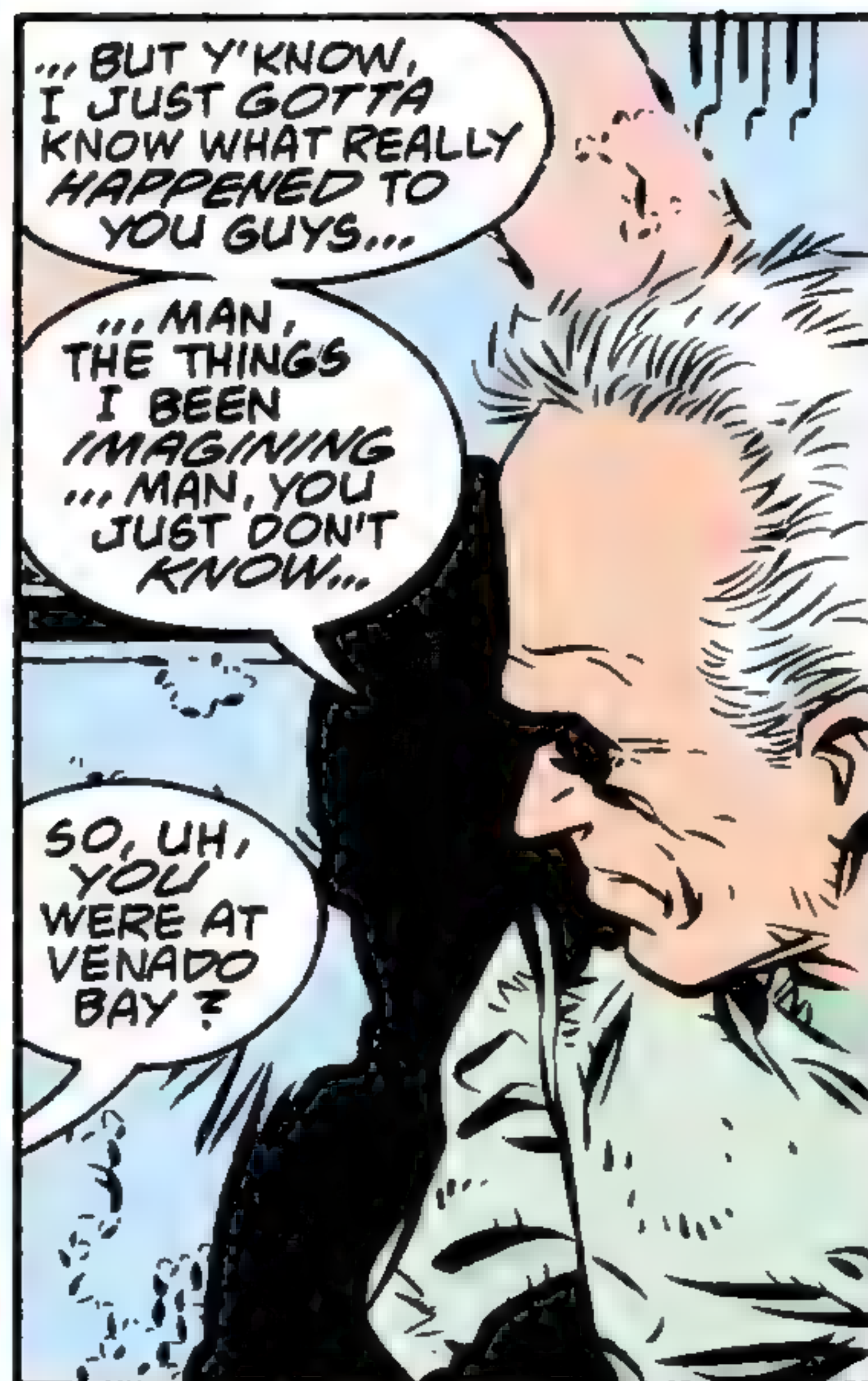
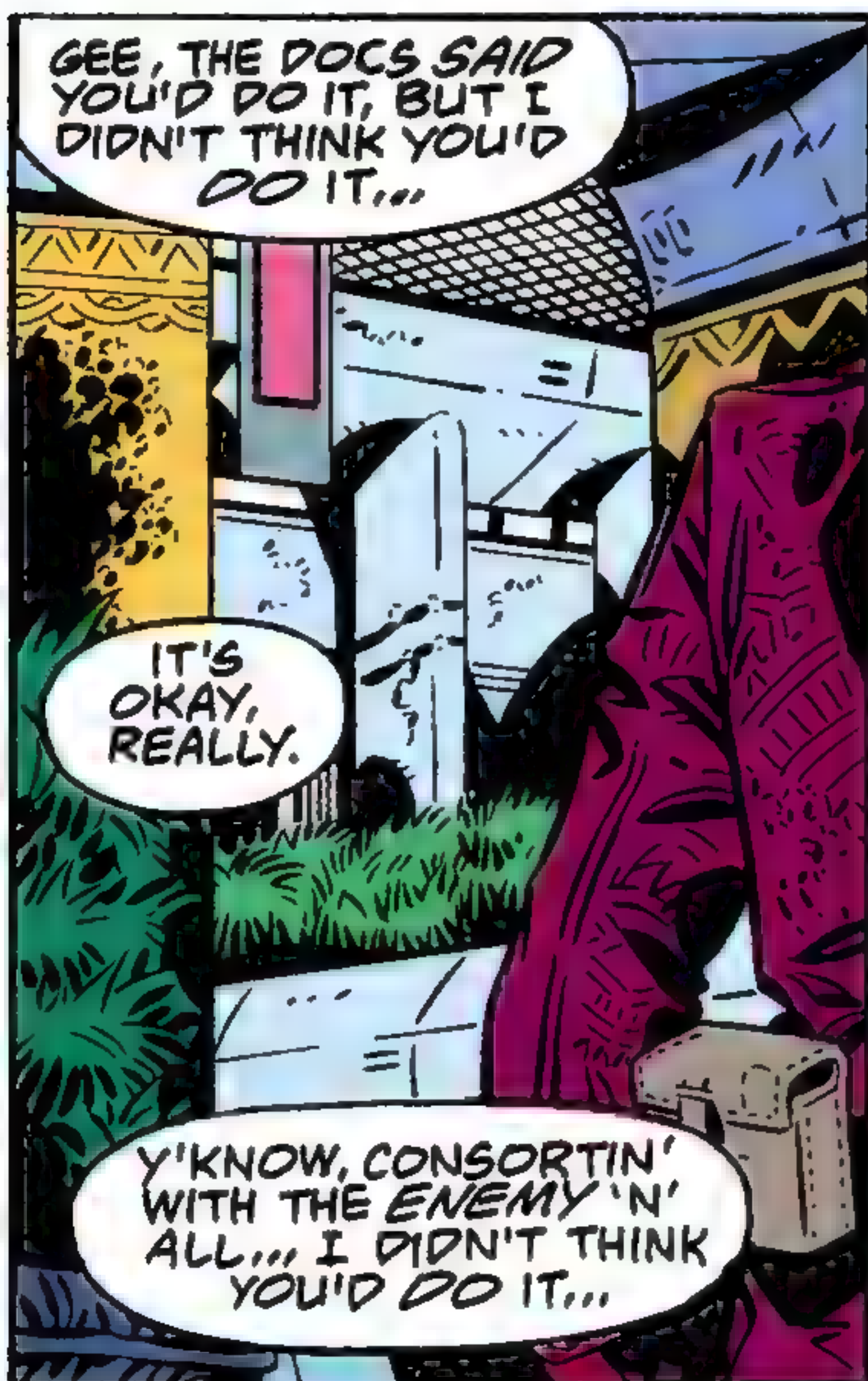
OH WOW!

Mr. Garth Ranzz and Mrs. Imra Ardeen Ranzz proudly announce the birth of their twin daughters Dacey and Doritt Ranzz.



FANTASTIC!





IT WAS OCTOBER 2991.

THE SIXTH HAD DUG IN ON BRAAL-13-- WE WERE BRACING FOR THE IMSKIAN OFFENSIVE EVERYONE KNEW WAS COMING.

I WAS IN BATTALLION 307 UNDER SUB-OFFICER COLLAZO.

WE WERE STATIONED OUT OF THE VENADO BAY BASE WHEN THE LANDING CAME. OUR PLATOON WAS ON THE PERIPHERY AT THAT TIME, AND COMMAND KEPT US THERE.

TWO DAYS INTO THE ACTION, THEY STILL HAD US PATROLLING THE FLANKS.

OUR OBJECTIVE WAS TO BOTTLE UP THE IMSKIAN PENETRATION.

HEY, SLOW DOWN, HERO! THE SWEEPER'S FOUND SOMETHING.

I HEAR IT, LOOMIS.

AS YOU KNOW, COMBAT AGAINST YOU IMSKIANS PRESENTS UNIQUE CHALLENGES.

TACTICAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED TO DETECT AN ENEMY THAT CAN SHRINK ITSELF TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE.

WHAT'VE YA GOT, WRAY?

DEFINITELY ORGANIC... AMBULATORY...

WEAPONS ON STANDBY, PEOPLE...

NOPE, NOPE... JUST AN OSTO-LIZARD.

I GUESS WE WERE ALL A LITTLE EDGY.

WELL, MOST OF US...

WAIT A MINUTE... I'M GIVING YOU THE EYE?

SURE YOU ARE.

OH COME ON. LOOMIS TOLD YOU TO SAY THAT, DIDN'T HE?

WE'D JUST SPOTTED SOME WRECKAGE FROM THE FIRST BATTLE OF VENADO BAY... THE ONE WE WON...

HEY, LOOKIT THIS...

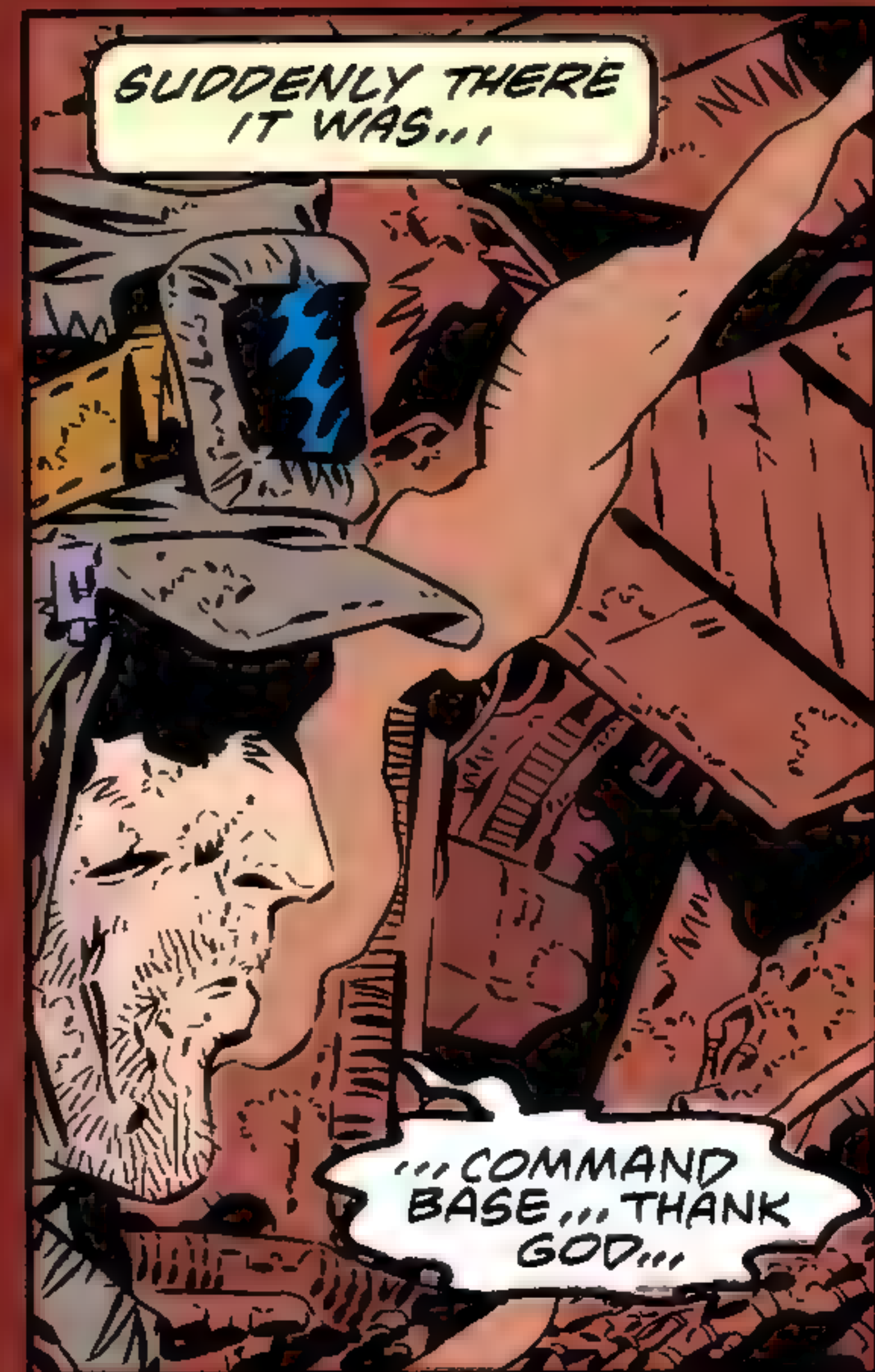
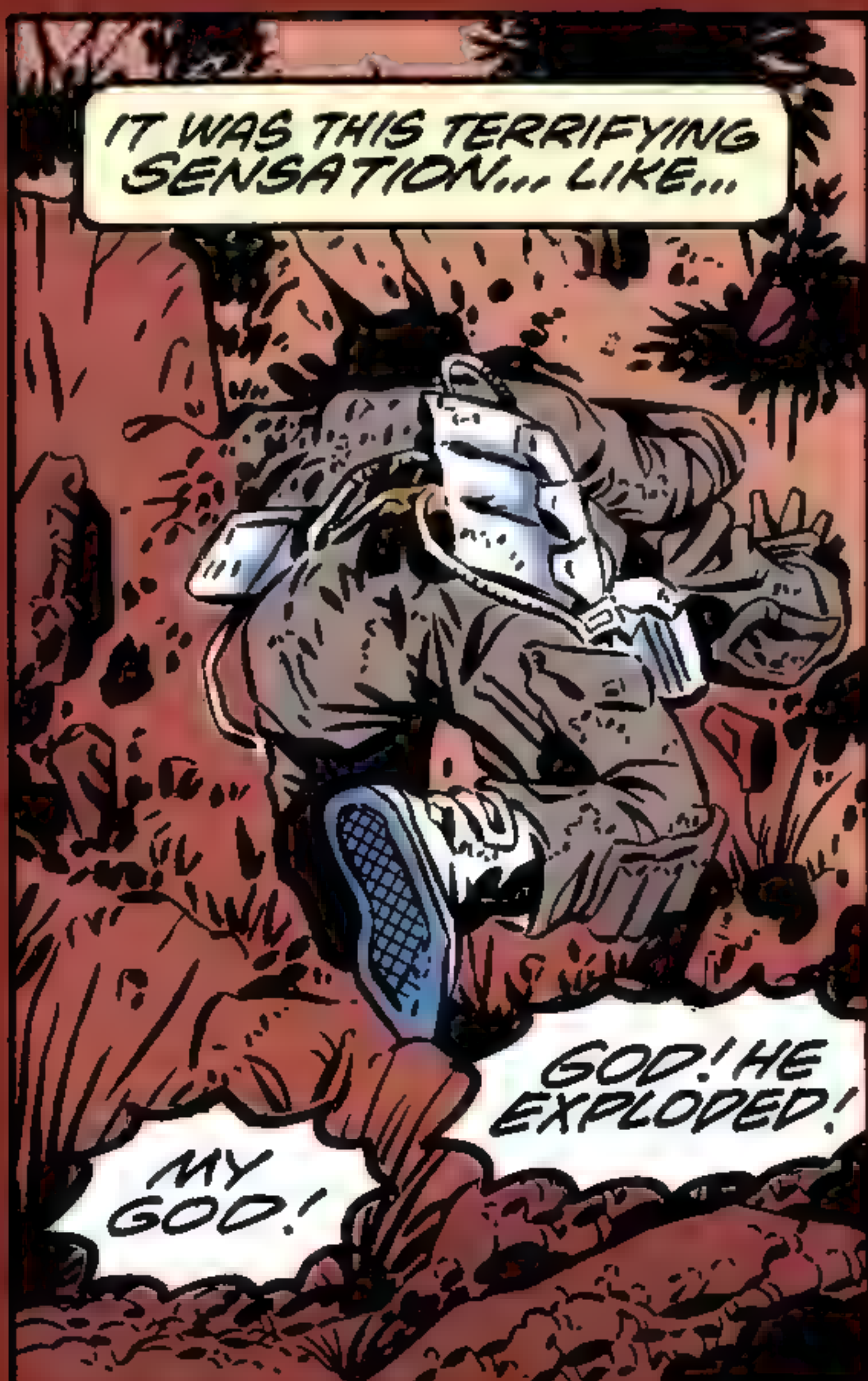
YEAH, IT'S IMSKIAN...

WHEN SUDDENLY...

THE SKY CHANGED COLOR.

IT'S...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!



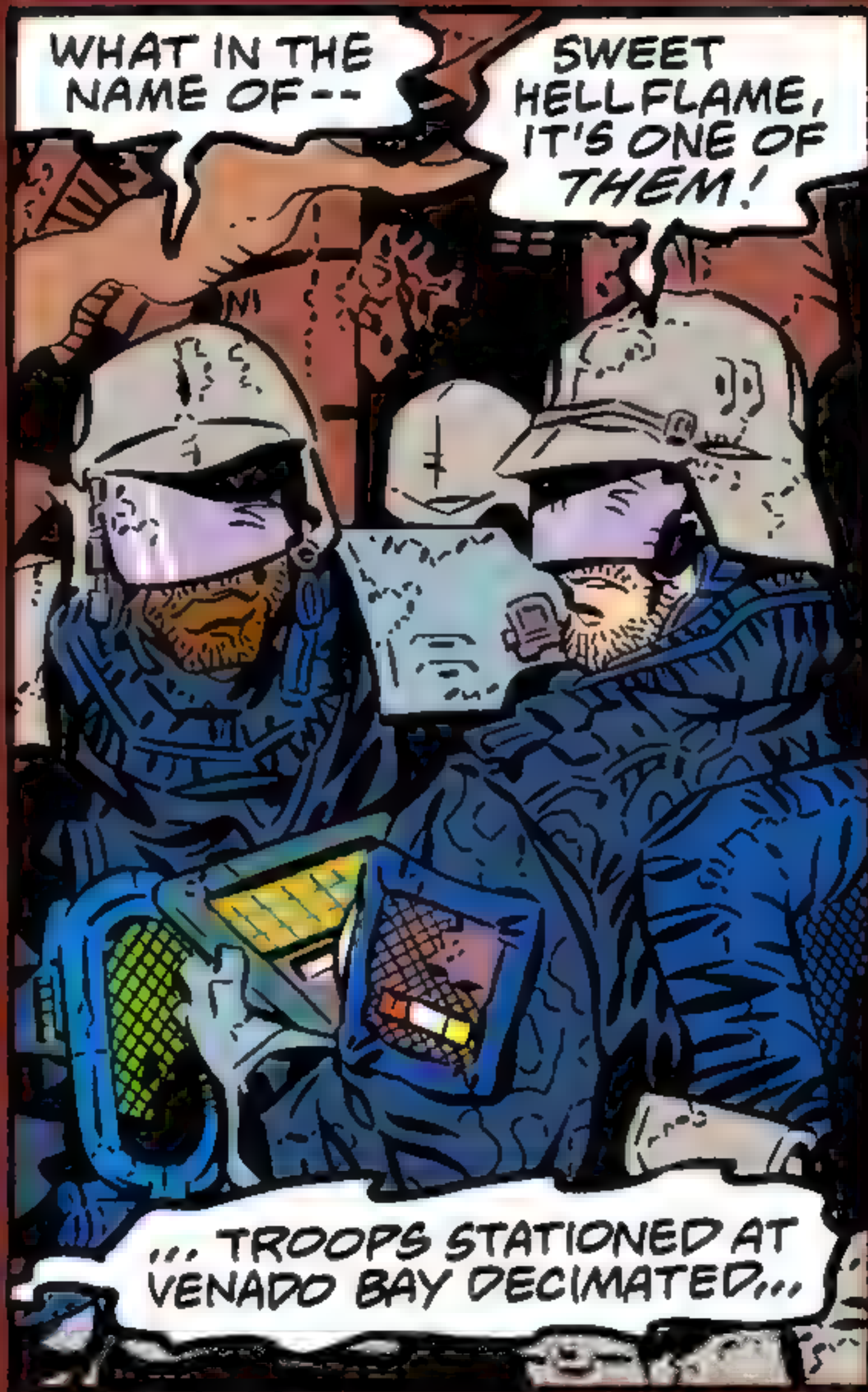


... THANK
GOD...



... GUNMAN S-SECOND
CLASS KRINN... REPORTING,
SIRS...

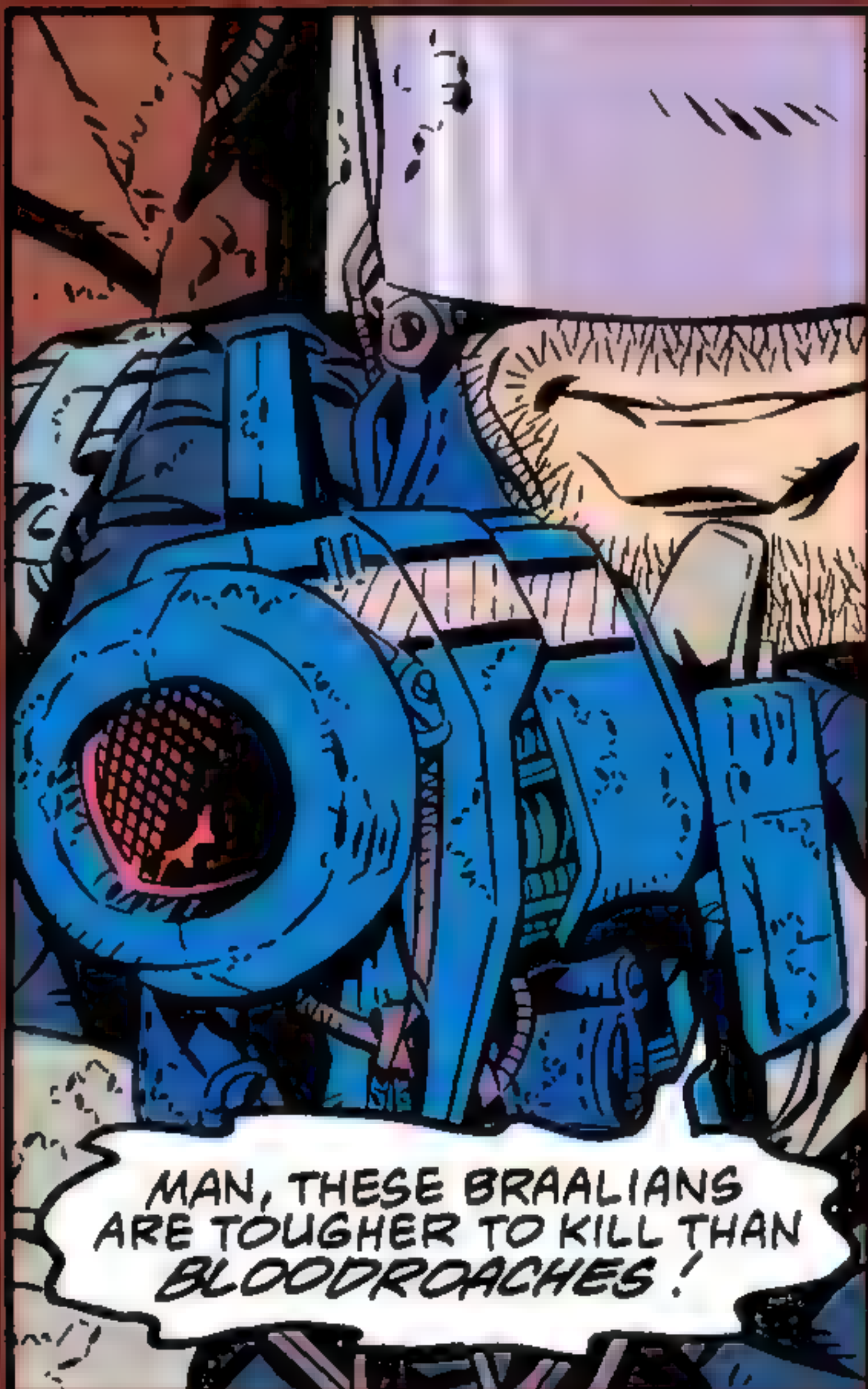
... IMSKIANS HAVE
DEPLOYED... DEVASTATING
WEAPON...



WHAT IN THE
NAME OF--

SWEET
HELLFLAME,
IT'S ONE OF
THEM!

... TROOPS STATIONED AT
VENADO BAY DECIMATED...



MAN, THESE BRAALIANS
ARE TOUGHER TO KILL THAN
BLOODROACHES!



WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU DOING,
SOLDIER!

HEY!



WHAT'S THE BIG
FLIPPIN' DEAL,
DIGBY?

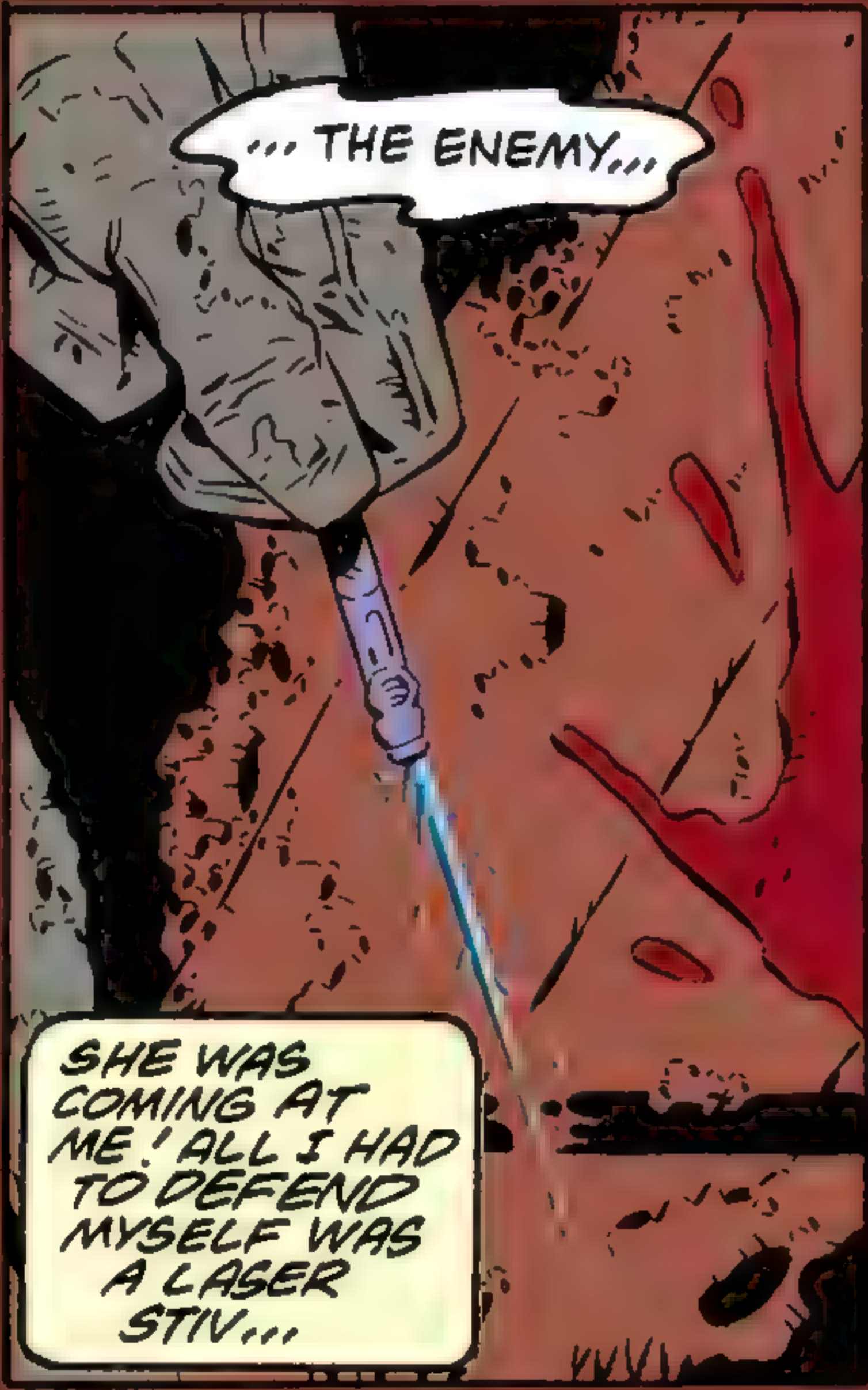
LOOK AT HIM!
HE NEEDS MEDICAL
ATTENTION!

HEY, BE
CAREFUL!
HE'S STILL THE
ENEMY!



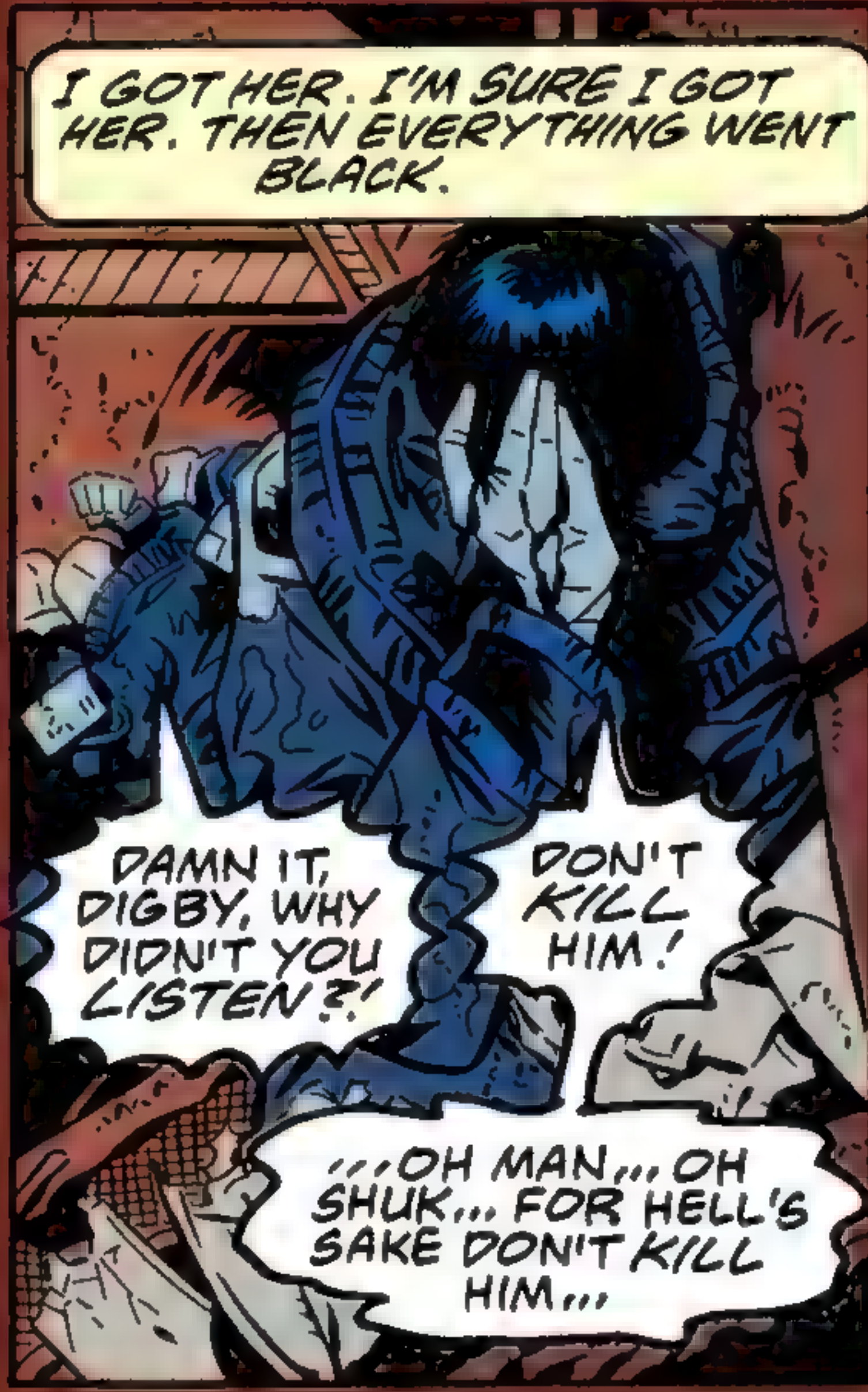
... THE ENEMY...

SOMEHOW AN
ENEMY SOLDIER
HAD INFILTRATED
THE COMMAND POST!



... THE ENEMY...

SHE WAS
COMING AT
ME! ALL I HAD
TO DEFEND
MYSELF WAS
A LASER
STIV...

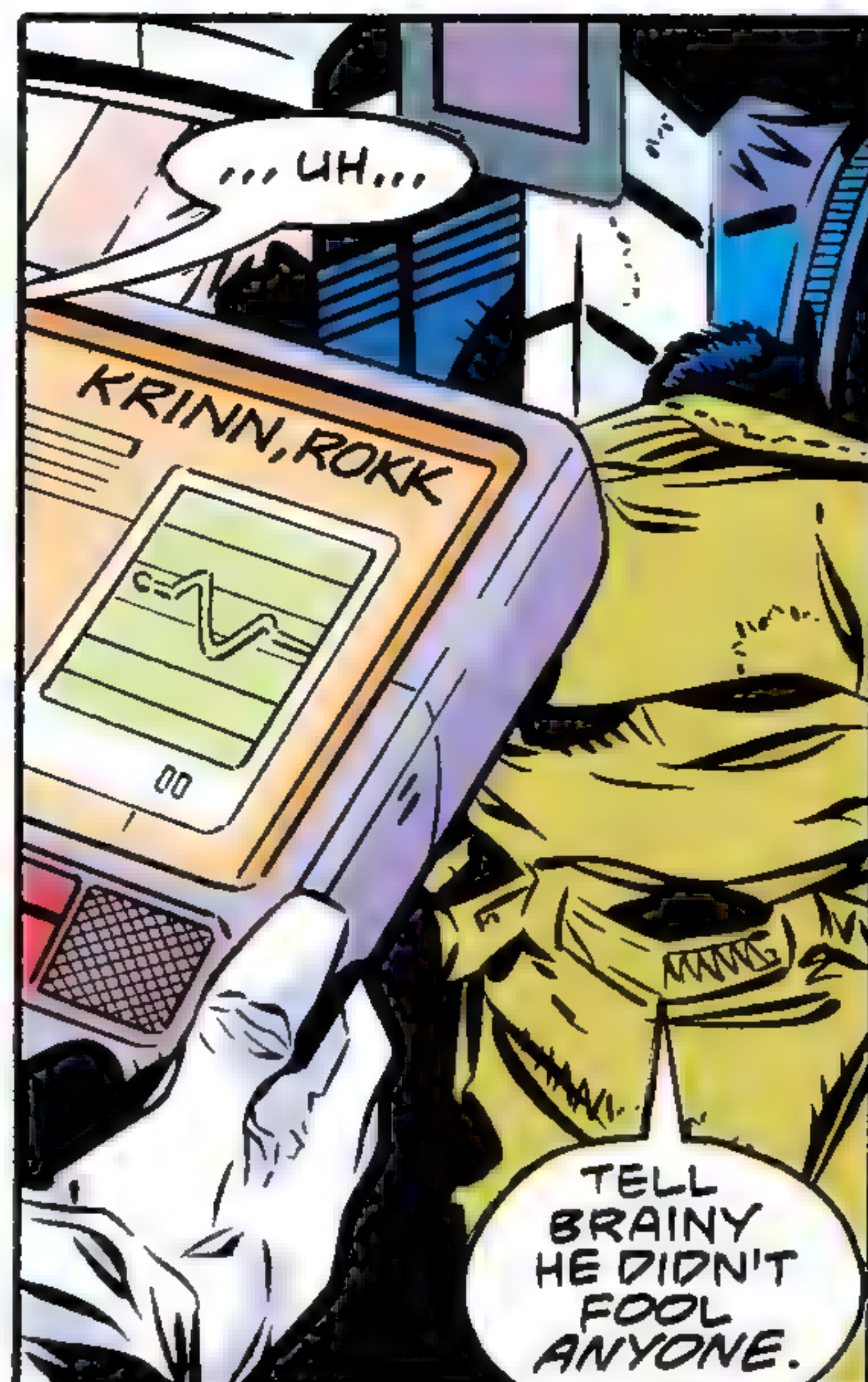
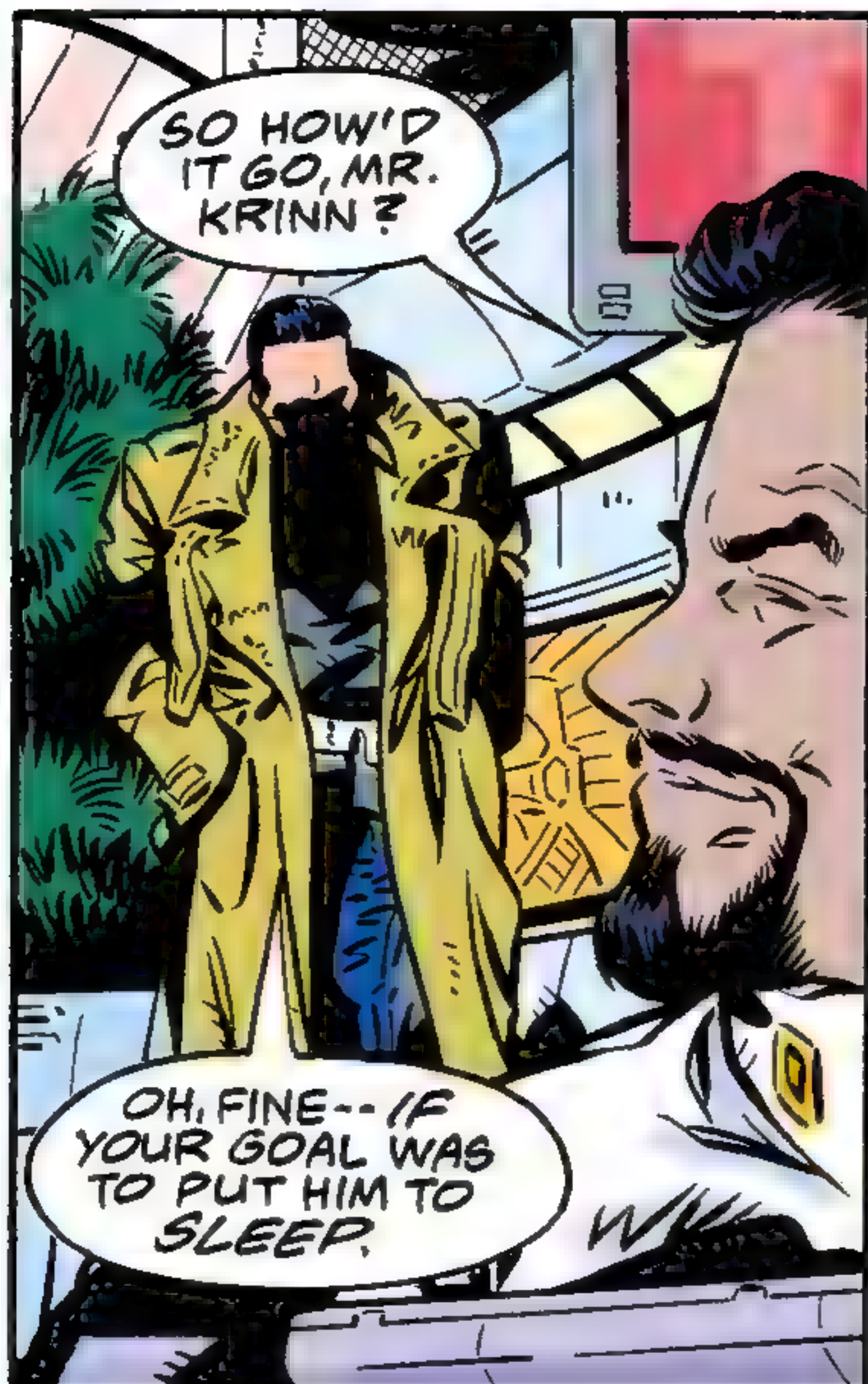
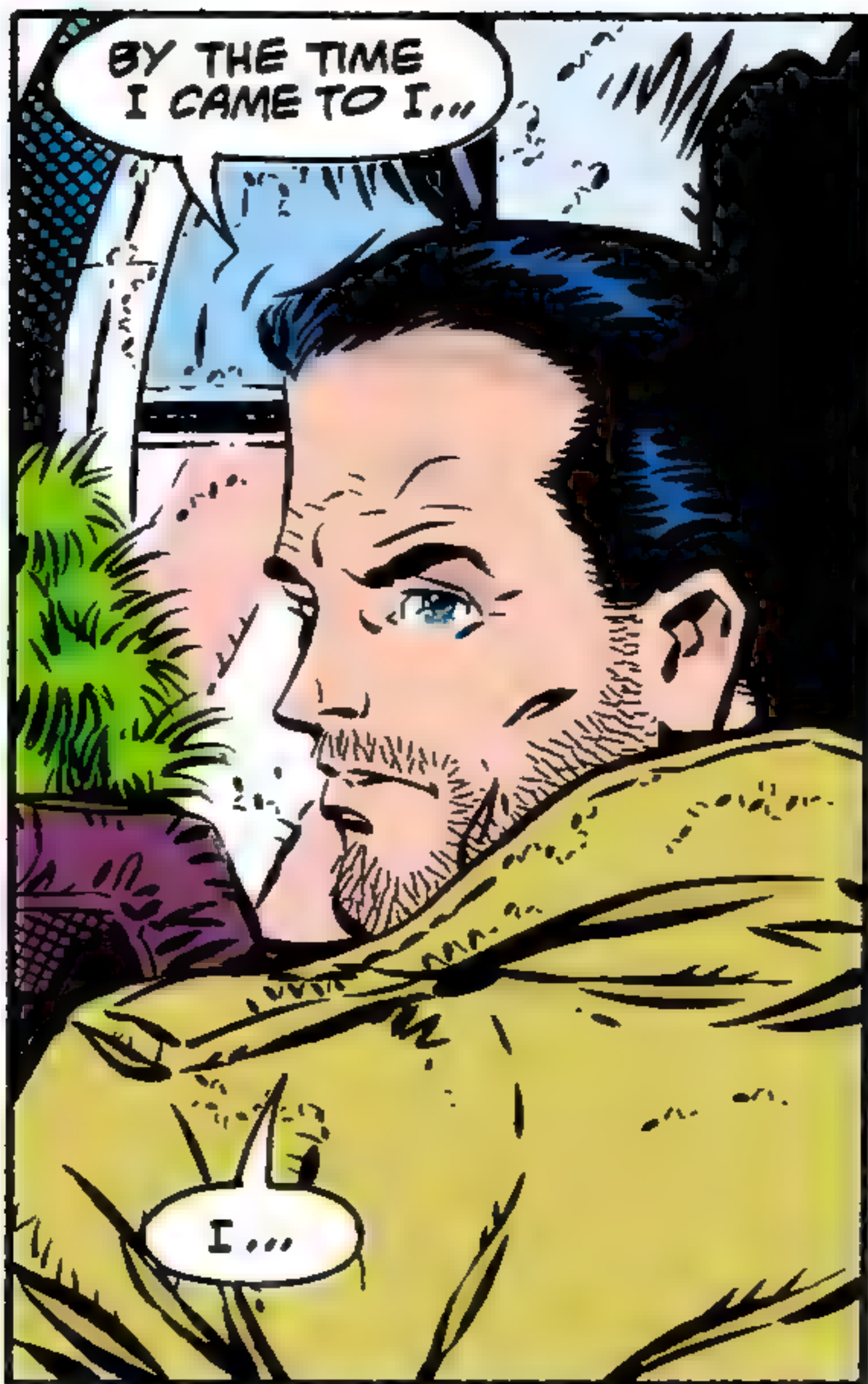


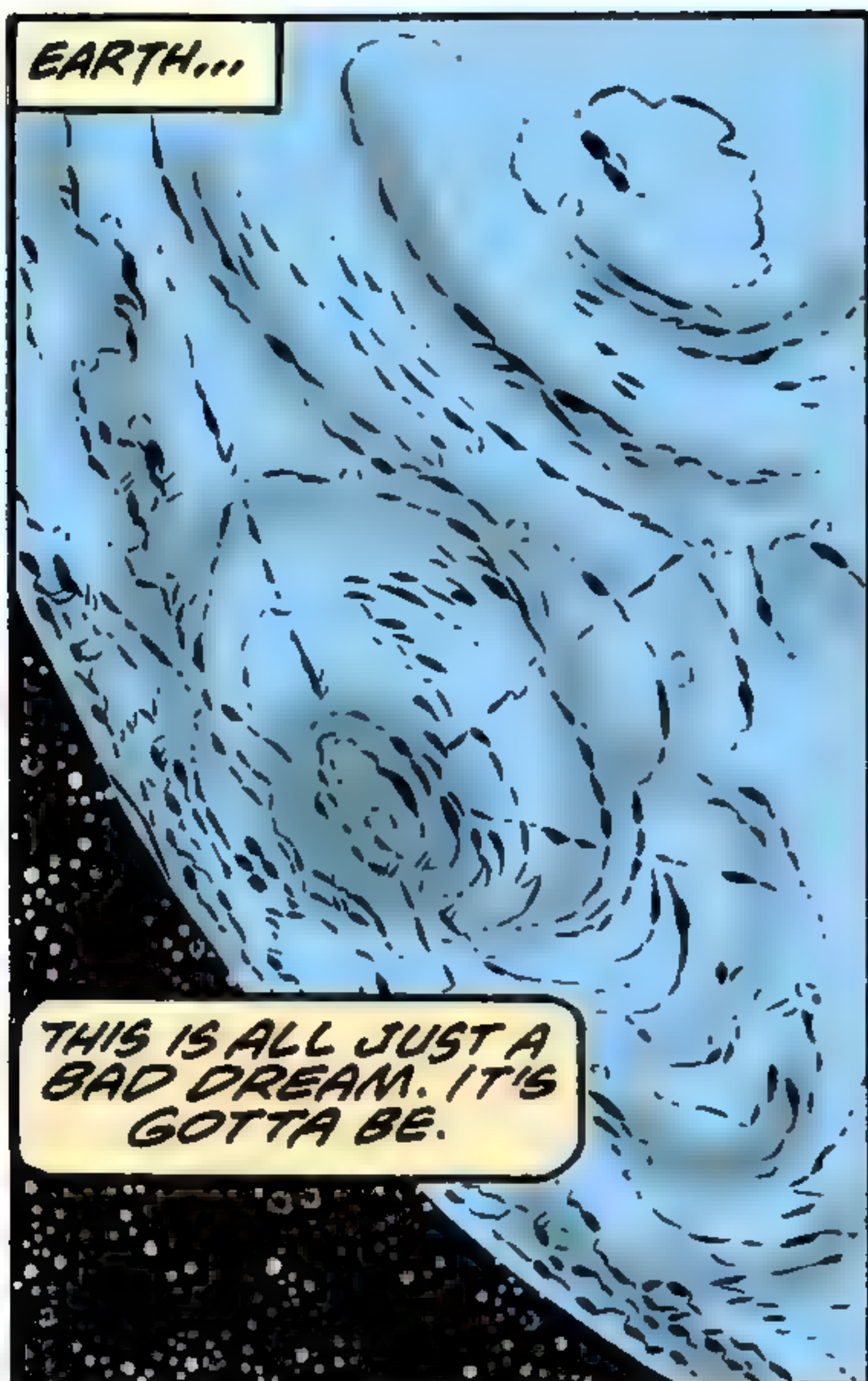
I GOT HER. I'M SURE I GOT
HER. THEN EVERYTHING WENT
BLACK.

DAMN IT,
DIGBY, WHY
DIDN'T YOU
LISTEN?!

DON'T
KILL
HIM!

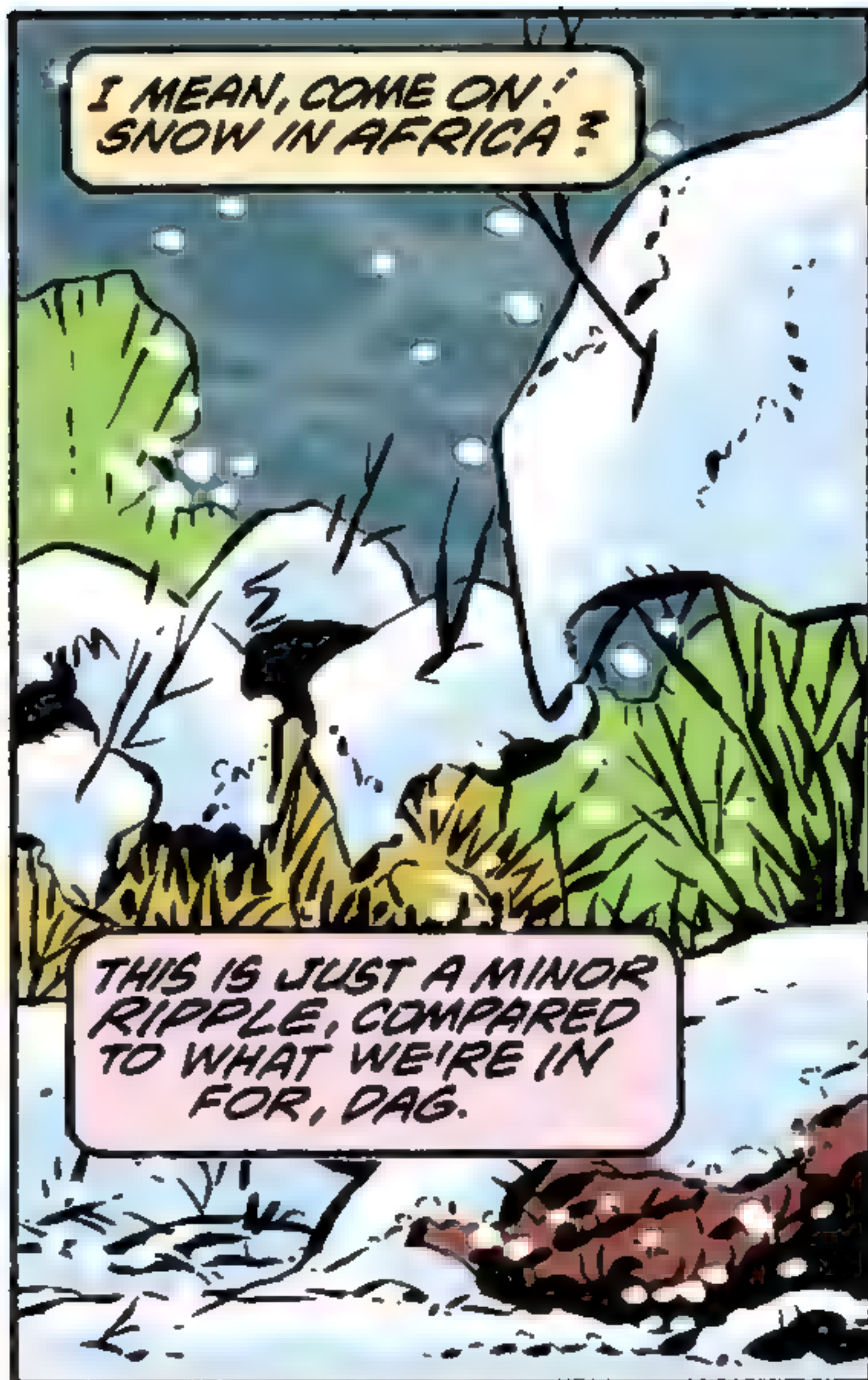
... OH MAN... OH
SHUK... FOR HELL'S
SAKE DON'T KILL
HIM...





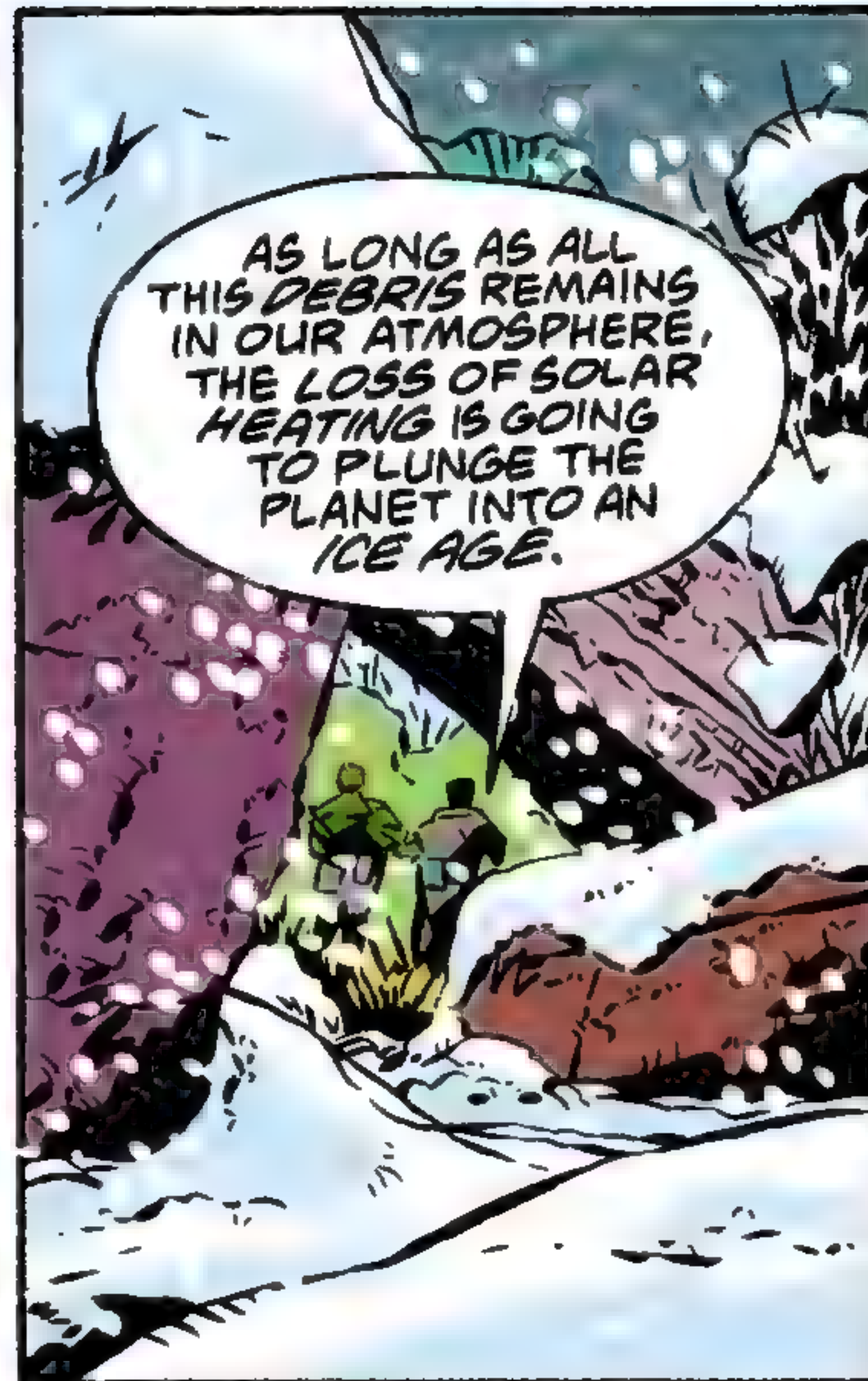
EARTH...

THIS IS ALL JUST A BAD DREAM. IT'S GOTTA BE.



I MEAN, COME ON! SNOW IN AFRICA?

THIS IS JUST A MINOR RIPPLE, COMPARED TO WHAT WE'RE IN FOR, DAG.



AS LONG AS ALL THIS DEBRIS REMAINS IN OUR ATMOSPHERE, THE LOSS OF SOLAR HEATING IS GOING TO PLUNGE THE PLANET INTO AN ICE AGE.



BUT I DON'T GET IT, ULU. WHY WOULDN'T THE DOMINATORS JUST CLEAN UP THE ATMOSPHERE?



BECAUSE THIS IS THE EASIEST WAY TO BATTER THE POPULATION INTO SUBMISSION.

LET NATURE DO IT FOR THEM.



SO THEY END UP WITH A RUINED PLANET AND HALF THE POPULATION DEAD OR DYING. FOR WHAT?



TUKANA ONLY KNOWS.

LET'S JUST HOPE WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. LET'S HOPE JACQUES HAS A PLAN.



JACQUES'S DOING HIS BEST ULU. THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME.

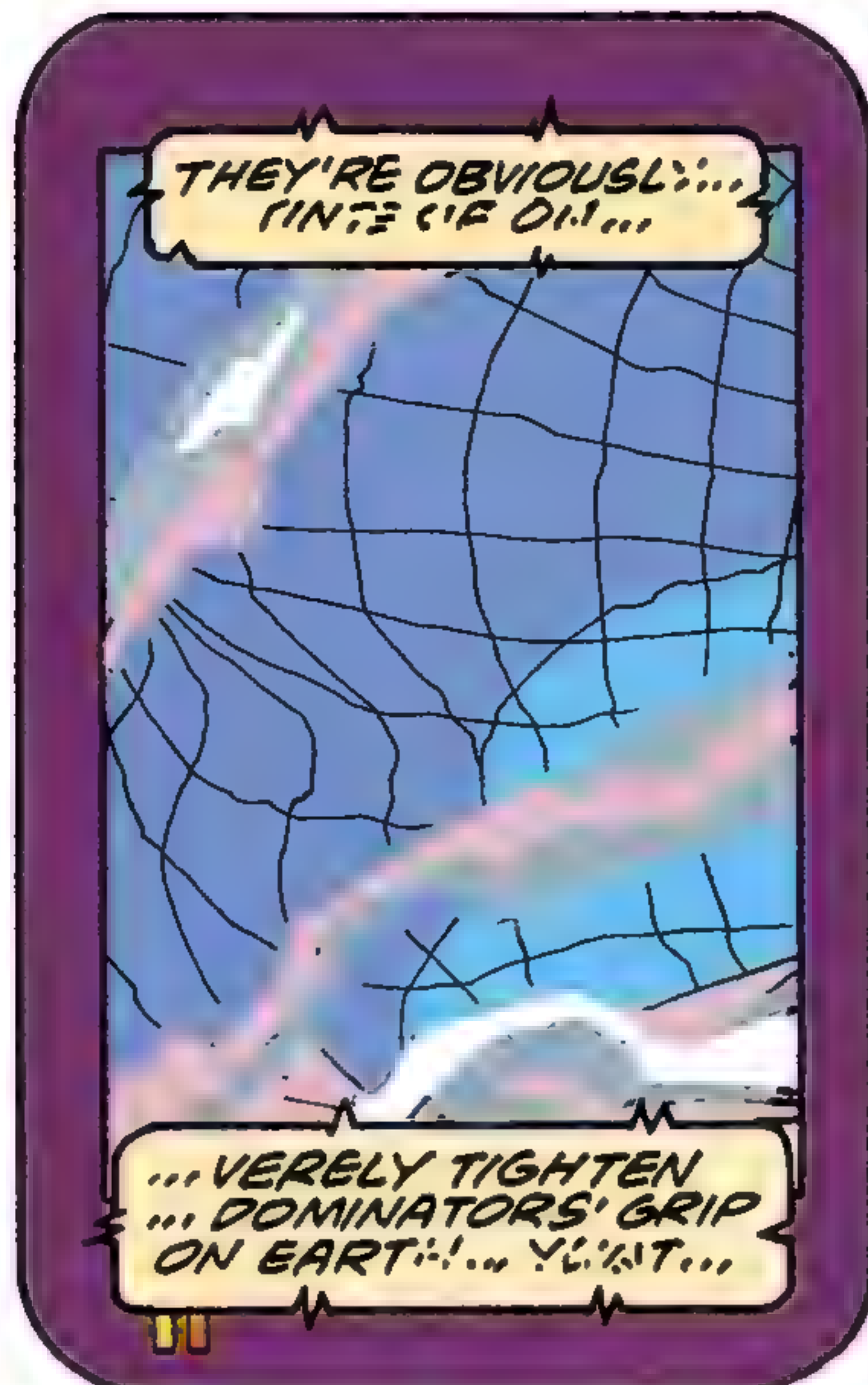
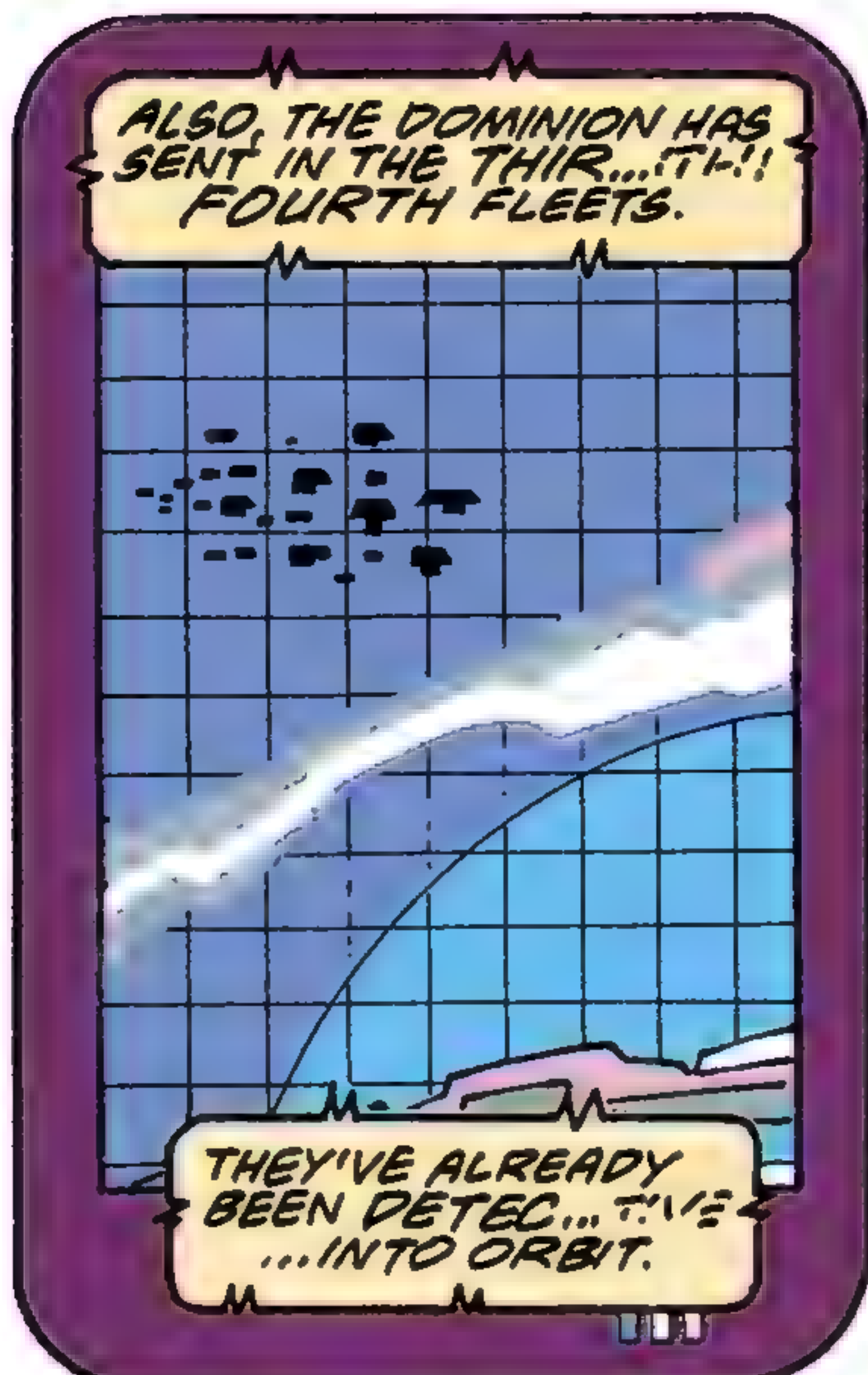
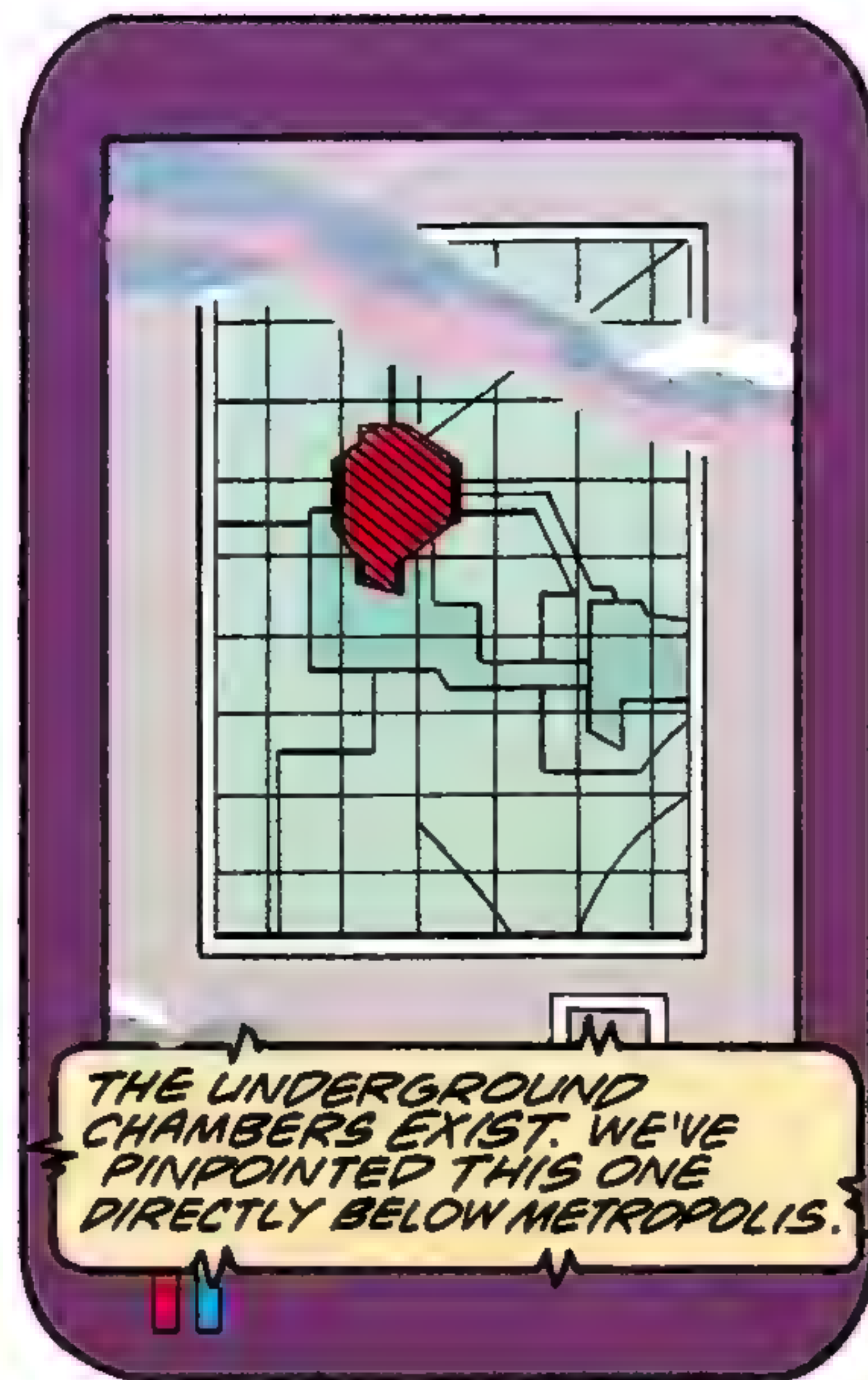
DRURA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

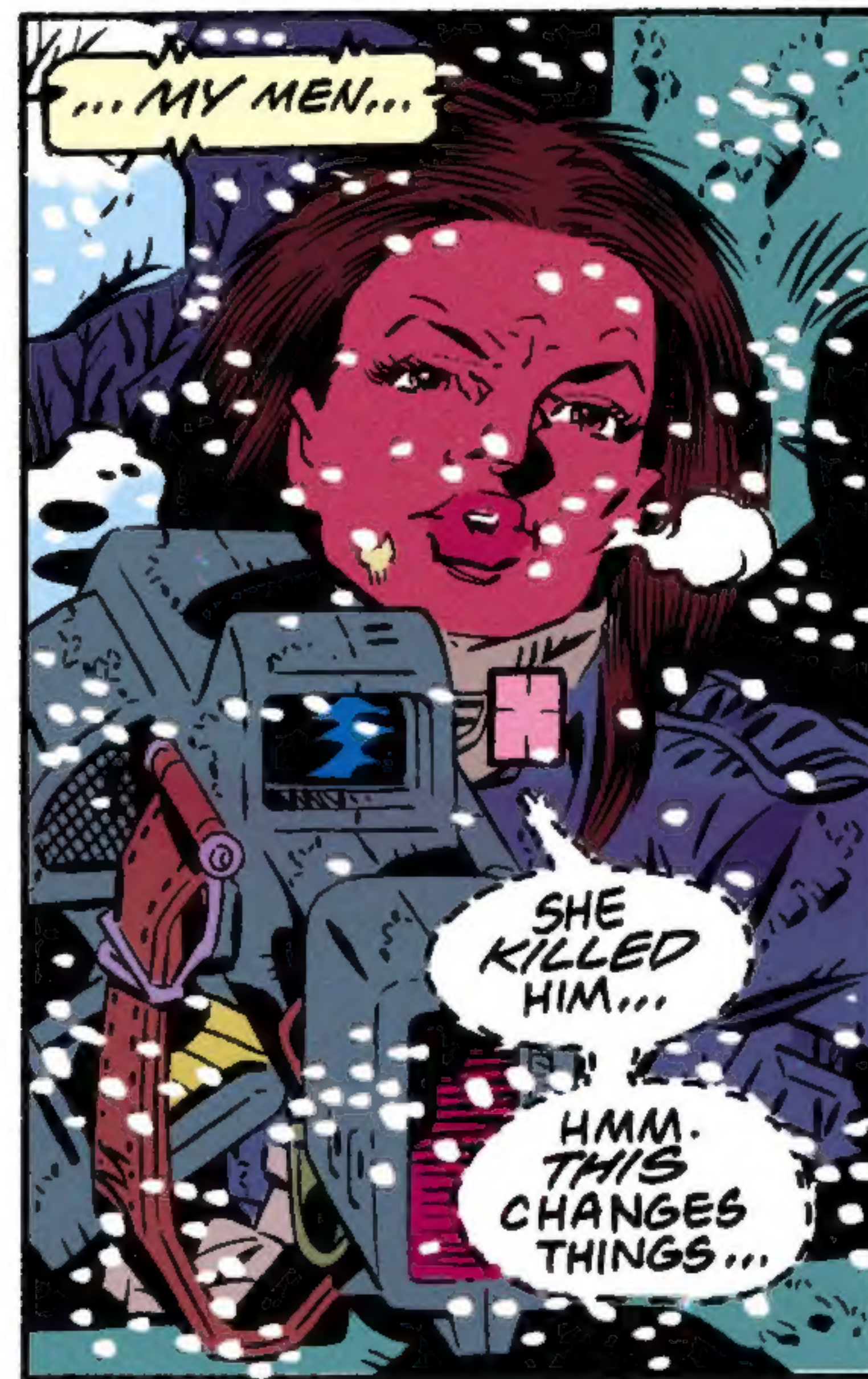
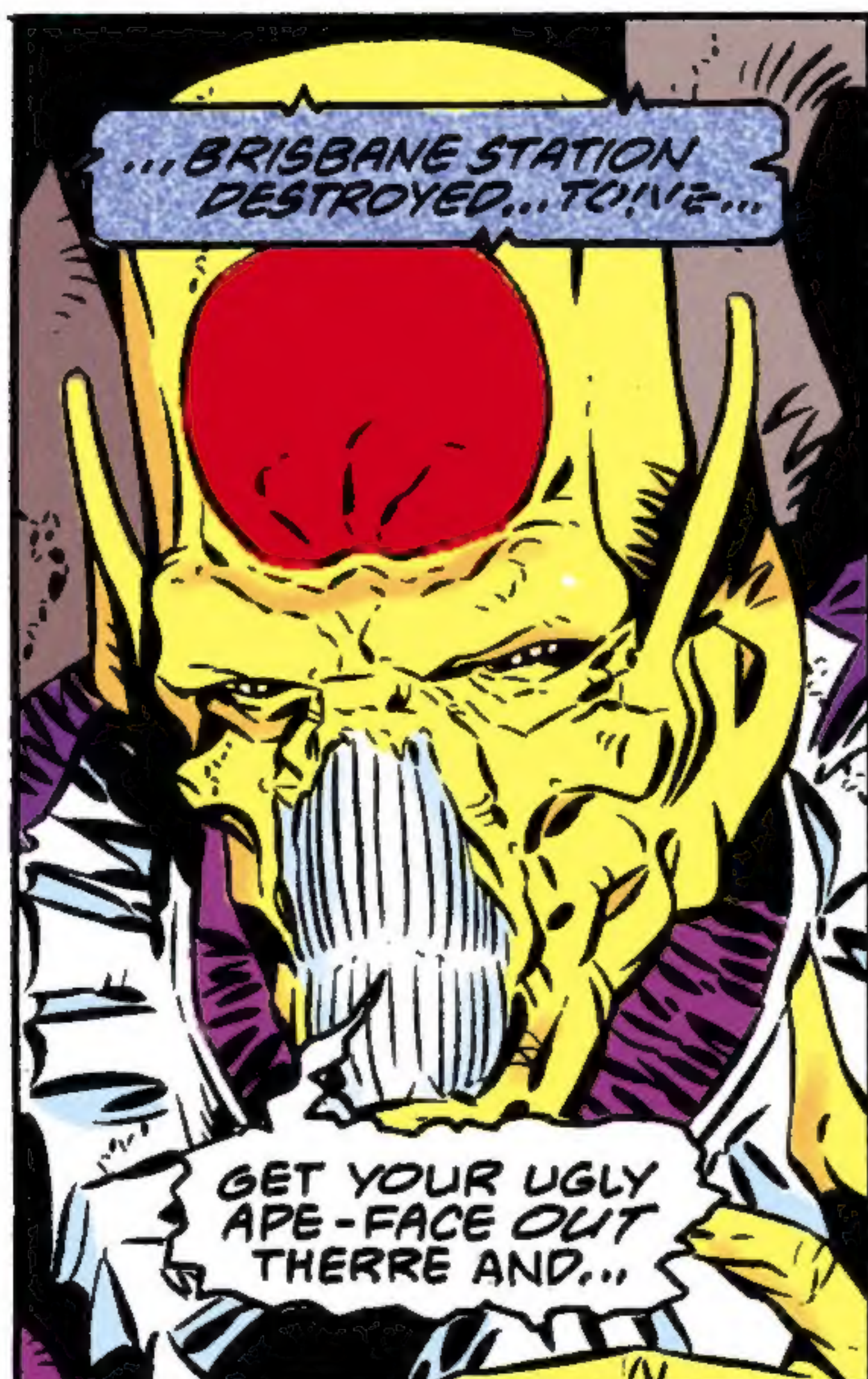
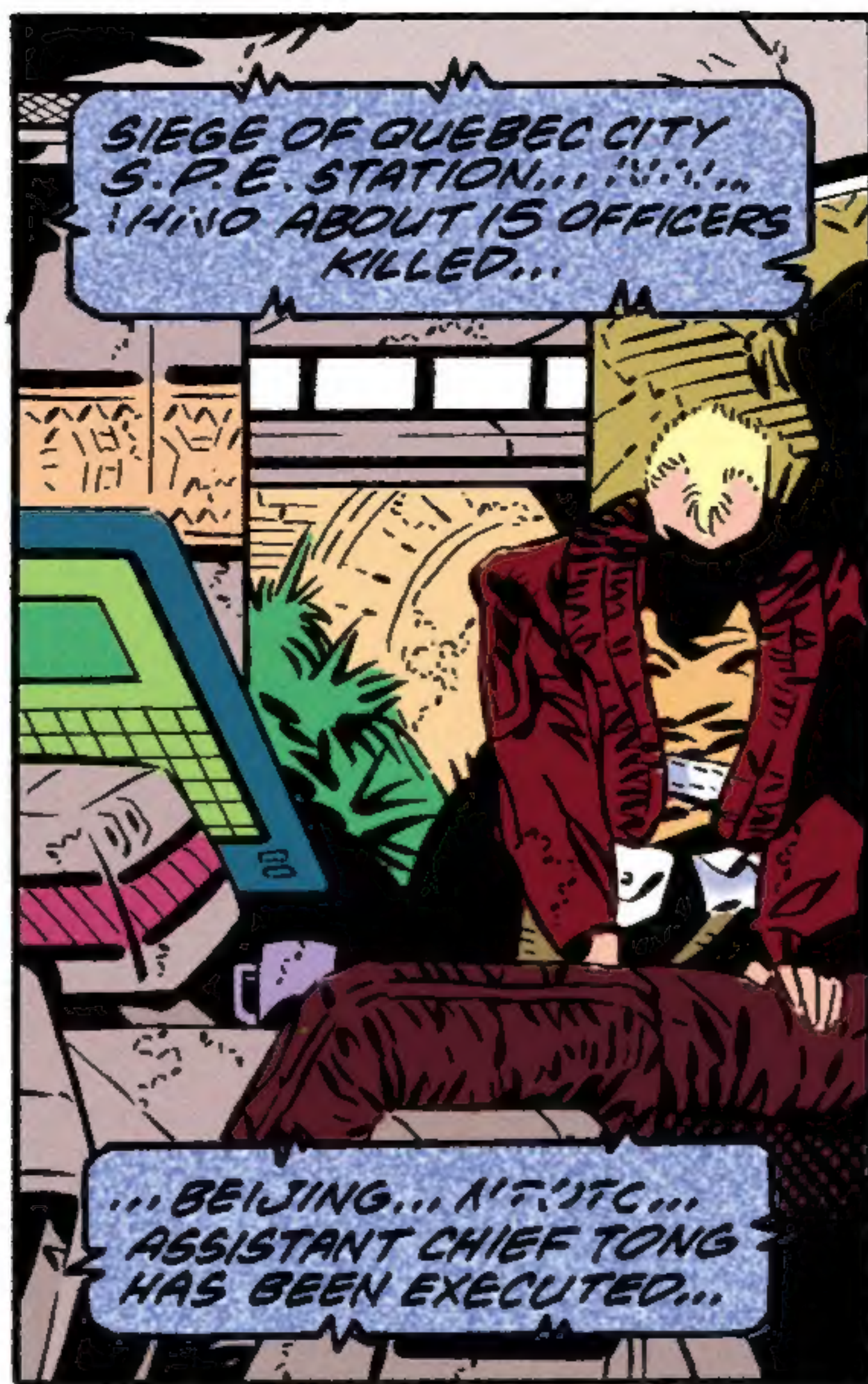


OH, I NEEDED A BREAK.

THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING SMOOTHLY IN THERE.

EVEN BEFORE HE SHOWED UP.





...NTC:TN...YONE
HEAR US? IS ANYONE
OUT THERE?

THIS IS ASCENSION.
CAN ANYBODY HEAR
US?

...N'C:T:I...T:I/M...
SASSANDRA STATION,
DO YOU READ?

ST. HELENA, PLEASE
COME IN. PLEASE COME
IN, ST. HELENA...

WE ARE OPERATING ON
IN-COMBUST GENERATORS
ONLY... FUEL... FUEL LEVELS
CRITICALLY LOW... EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
URGENTLY REQUIRED...

...T'D:I-G...LEASE
COME IN...

...THIS IS ASCENSION...
CAN ANYBODY HEAR US?

...CAN
ANYBODY
HEAR U...
...C:I/I...

75.....55"

KEITH GIFFEN
PLOT & PENCILS
TOM & MARY
BIERBAUM
DIALOGUE &
STORY ASSIST
AL GORDON
INKING &
STORY ASSIST
ALBERT DeGUZMAN
LETTERING
TOM McCRAW
COLORING &
STORY ASSIST
DAN RASPLER
EDITOR



Comparative Texts

How History Is Being Written in the United Planets

A U.P. Service.



Venado Bay

Excerpted from *Imskian Horizons*, a popular secondary history text on Imsk

...By October, the Imskian leadership was presented with a painful decision. The Braalian aggressors had refused to relent despite defeat after defeat at the hands of the better-trained, technologically superior Imskian forces. All attempts to bring the Braalians to the negotiating table were being hostilely rebuffed. There was no choice but to take the surface war into the Braalian system.

But Braal was bracing for bloody hand-to-hand warfare down to the last of its 500,000 troops. The prospect of such horrific carnage was repugnant to the Imskian leadership and an alternative was sought. As is so often the case in warfare, the quick, overwhelming use of force was necessary to avert the prolonged and atrocious slaughter of soldiers on both sides.

So our leadership reluctantly chose to make use of a Damper device that inflicted heavy losses on Braalian troops without putting Imskian soldiers at risk. The powerful weapon was used on October 8, 2991 at the Venado Bay base on the outermost inhabited world of the Braalian system, Braal-13. Because of the Damper's effectiveness, a major beachhead within the Braalian system was established with almost no loss of Imskian life.

The Braalian army was devastated and the war, for all intents and purposes, had ended there. Making use of calculated strategic attacks, the Imskian army was able to gradually infiltrate the Braalian system over the next two years, consistently defeating the now-dispirited enemy troops.

The Imskian leadership solemnly swore never again to use the powerful Damper weapon, unless, as had been the case at Venado Bay, it was the only means to avoid massive loss of life.

Venado Bay and the Damper are today remembered as symbols of the horrors of war and the awful lengths to which peaceful societies must sometimes go to protect their freedoms and independence from the forces of tyranny.

Bay of Blood

Excerpted from *Causes and Effects*, a secondary history text published by the New Dawn Coalition and in limited distribution throughout the U.P.

...Four months into the war, Imsk found itself sealed in a corner. Its ongoing belligerence toward the United Planets had undermined Imsk's chances of winning any dispute in the court of U.P. public opinion, and the planet's historically arrogant means of dealing with territorial disputes had retarded the Imskian society's diplomatic skills. Yet the celebrated Braalian obstinance seemed to dictate that any resolution wrought on the battlefield would take bloody months or years to play itself out.

But in fact, there is no evidence to suggest Imsk ever seriously attempted to settle the war anywhere else. In fact, Imsk may have had far more to do with instigating the conflict than is generally acknowledged. Such charges center on the devastating Damper weapon the Imskians unleashed at the Venado Bay Massacre. Though details of its discovery and development have been kept in strictest secrecy, technologists believe the apocalyptic weapon was some years in development, and that its existence as a trump card contributed to the high-handed tone of Imsk's dealings with Braal in the months leading up to war.

The Damper transmitted electromagnetic pulses uniquely encoded to invade the bodies of Braalians and disrupt their distinctive magnetic fields. Depending on the intensity of the exposure to those signals, a Braalian could be completely blown apart by the damper, he could suffer the bloody explosion of one or more limbs, or he could sustain permanent disruption or loss of his magnetic abilities.

The Imskians established their initial beachhead in the Braalian system by unleashing the destructive weapon on Braalian Armies stationed at Venado Bay on the outer planet Braal-13. Within three minutes more than 5000 Braalian soldiers were massacred and 2000 were wounded, most of them gruesomely. It is considered the worst

(Please Scroll Down for Additional Text)



From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH

